Hafa Adai!

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Lifeless body found in CK

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Police officers found another dead body, this time at a beach in Chalan Kanoa.

This was the second case of a body found in over two weeks with no specific cause of death.

Department of Public Safety police found the dead body during routine inspection last Friday.

As of 4:40pm yesterday, DPS has yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune* inquiries or release specific details about the body, including cause of death.

Back in March, police also found a

See LIFELESS on Page 4

FLAME TREE ARTS FESTIVAL ERWIN ENCINARES

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signs the Flame Tree Arts Festival proclamation with Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios as first lady Diann Tudela-Torres looks on. The cultural heritage of performing arts, traditional crafts, visual arts, and literary arts in the CNMI will be the highlight this week, with April 11 to April 14 named the Flame Tree Arts Festival Week.

See story on Page 9

Atalig asks to travel for heart surgery

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig asked the federal court yesterday to allow him to travel to Manila, Philippines for medical treatment on his heart.

Atalig

Atalig, through counsel David G. Banes, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that he will have heart surgery or a stent placed in his heart at the Asian Hos-

See ATALIG on Page 4

Wildfire forces GMS to evacuate students

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Students of Green Meadow School in Chalan Kiya were sent home after a wildfire broke out a few hundred meters from the school yesterday.

According to GMS administrative staff Loida Mallari, students in all grade levels were sent home around 4pm yesterday because of the thick dark smoke that was being blown into the school grounds.

Mallari said that GMS principal Milagros Songcuan gave the order to call the students' parents to pick up their children because they were fearful of any asthma attacks that could happen.

See WILDFIRE on Page 4

'Water supply fine for now but…'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI's water supply is fine "for the time being" but Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary P. Camacho is encouraging CUC customers to conserve water.

"For normal water use, yes, we're okay," Camacho said even as he underscored the need for CUC customers to conserve water to avoid any shortage.

He said the diminishing rainfall is impacting the surface water level.

He noted that Donni Spring on Saipan produces 350 gallons per minute, but it's now down to 50 gallons per minute.

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WORLD
The United States has temporarily withdrawn some of its forces from Libya.
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Twenty-five years after the 1994 genocide Rwanda has six "reconciliation villages."
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The well-reviewed, relatively modestly budgeted "Shazam!" debuted with $53.5 million.
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Local

$233.22M: Proposed budget for fiscal year 2020

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Torres administration is looking to re-appropriate a portion of the revenues it projects to collect in fiscal year 2020 to secure the 25 percent payment of the pension of all retirees.

This was emphasized in the $233.22 million proposed budget for fiscal year 2020 that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres transmitted to the Legislature last Friday.

This is a 9.7-percent decrease from last fiscal year's record high budget of $258.14 million—a difference of $24.9 million.

The local revenue and resources available for appropriation went down by 14.3 percent—from $171,589,677 in fiscal year 2019 to $147,135,214 in fiscal year 2020—or $24,454,463.

The Finance Department, headed by acting secretary David Atalig, has identified $233,222,527 in gross budgetary resources from revenues collected from the business gross revenue tax, income tax, excise taxes, and others (hotel occupancy, bar, and beautification taxes).

The net amount of resources available for appropriation is $147,135,214.

"The budget submitted is balanced where the total amount of proposed expenditures does not exceed total estimated resources available for appropriation," said Torres in his letter to House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) and Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota).

Business gross revenue taxes comprise 35 percent of the CNMI's budgetary resources, $80,878,020.

The other budgetary sources are income taxes (25 percent or $58,198,743), excise taxes (21 percent or $48,866,820), other taxes (11 percent or $25,927,581), licenses and fees (5 percent or $11,449,316), charges for services (2 percent or $4,866,243), and other revenues (1 percent or $3,035,804).

Torres said the budgetary gross adjustment also reflects the inclusion of the allocation to the NMI Settlement Fund of $43 million. The adjustment is pursuant to Public Law 20-33, which established the NMISF Revolving and Bond Payment Revolving Fund Accounts.

He added that the government, in the last five years, has fulfilled its pension obligation to the Settlement Fund and encouraged autonomous and semi-autonomous agencies to also contribute. "For context, retirees benefitting are those from across all entities of the government including the autonomous and semi-autonomous agencies."

Ways and Means

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that his office has already received the fiscal year 2020 budget plan. "The members of Ways and Means will review the budget proposal next week onwards and ensure that, first and foremost, the numbers are balanced."

"Second, that all branches, executive and autonomous agencies, and instrumentalities of the government receive a fair budget share to ensure critical services are intact, innovative programs continue, and that we meet our general obligations."

He added that Ways and Means would also set aside funds that the government could tap in case of emergencies. "Wherever the committee finds possible excess funds, we will put it away for rainy days, for our future generation."

Blanco said that the Ways and Means Committee would also look into every amount contained in the governor's proposed budget including re-appropriations like the 25 percent for the pension of all retirees.

"I saw that and the committee needs to meet with [Office of Management and Budget] and [Department of] Finance to ascertain exactly what is being proposed," Blanco told *Saipan Tribune*.

Torres attends PIDB meeting in Palau

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, left, and Palau President Tommy Remengasau shake hands after the signing of Presidential Proclamation 19-259, which thanks the people and the government of the CNMI for designating a public land for the construction of a Palauan community hall.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is fresh from a recent visit to Palau for the regular meeting of the Pacific Islands Development Bank where he is the chairman of the board of governors. The PIDB is a regional financial institution that aims to help small island nations.

Torres, as chairman, led the discussions on the economic and social development issues that is under the PIDB's programs for each member of government in the Micronesian region. PIDB is the developmental and financial institution of the Pacific region.

Guam, Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap from the Federated States of Micronesia compose the membership of the PIDB; it has headquarters at the First Hawaiian Bank building in Maite, Guam.

The board of governors is composed of two members—the governor or lieutenant governor and the head of the legislature—from each of the eight members. The board, headed by president and chair Aren Palik, is made up mostly of financial chiefs of each island government.

RELATED NEWS
Torres elected PIDB board chair. **PAGE 9**

The PIDB offers commercial, consumer, and residential loans, and administer loan funds for each island government in the region.

The PIDB was established in 1989 with the purpose of contributing to the economic development of its eight members and shareholders.

"PIDB was created in response to a longstanding desire on the part of these small island nations and states for a financial/lending institution that focuses on the pressing needs and the challenges of the region," as stated on its website.

Torres also witnessed a proclamation signing last Friday by President Tommy Remengesau thanking the people and government of the CNMI for designating a portion of a public land on Saipan where a Palauan Community Hall will be built.

The ceremony was also attended by the *Olbiil era Kelulau* or the Palau National Congress led by Senate President Hokkons Baules and House Speaker of Delegates Sabino Anastacio.

Reklai, the Rubekul Belau, and representatives of the Governor's Association and the Organization of State Speakers were also present at the proclamation signing and presentation.

CHamoru commission meeting set

The *Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tåno'* (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its monthly meetings on Thursdays, April 11 and 25, 2019, 12:30pm to 3pm.

The meetings will take place at the Garden House, Plaza de Espana in Hagåtña.

Agenda items include but are not limited to: approval of minutes, reports from the chair, vice-chair, secretary and committee chairs, fiscal year 2018 financial matters, new series of orthography training, strategic plans and implementation updates, and 2019 projects.

Work sessions will also be held on Thursdays, April 4 and 18, 2019, from 12:30pm to 3pm at the same venue.

For more information contact Kumisión chair/Gé'helo' Hope Alvarez Cristobal at 483-0097 or secretary/Sikritåria Rosa Salas Palomo at 727-5522. ***(PR)***

The unacceptable culture of silence

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» **Victims urged to speak up**

Sexual assault victims all over the CNMI were urged to speak up and report incidences of sexual assault and sexual harassment.

This was the message behind acting governor Arnold I. Palacios' proclamation of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month last Friday morning at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

This year's theme is, "I ask"; it refers to the act of giving consent.

Sexual assault is commonly defined as any sexual act without consent, such as molestation, harassment, and rape, among others.

"Sexual assault does not discriminate. While some populations, like children, are more vulnerable, anyone can be a victim of sexual assault, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, faith, socioeconomic status, or ability," the proclamation noted.

Keynote speaker Kiki I. Benjamin said this was a reality she had to face twice as a child and once as a young adult.

"Growing up, I was taught the stranger danger concept and the buddy system concept. Don't talk to strangers and always have someone follow you," Benjamin recalled. "But the sad reality is that most sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim once loved or trusted—a family member, a friend, acquaintance, or a person with authority," she said.

Benjamin shared her story of being molested twice by an uncle as well as being raped by a relative of her mother, who was a member of a gubernatorial Cabinet at the time.

The *Saipan Tribune* normally does not identify rape victims, but is naming Benjamin here because she has agreed to share her story.

"Sexual assault continues to happen because we remain silent. Whether we are the victims or bystanders, we see it, yet we say nothing," she said. "…Until we speak up, offenders will continue to offend. Sexual assault is the most underreported crime and studies show that sex offenders, on average, will reoffend several more times before they are reported. That could have been my loved one or me several more times. ...The worry that burdens my mind is wondering if my offenders had offended a new victim because of my silence."

"I blame our culture of silence and taboo, the negative cultural responses, attitudes and social stigma that allow this horrific soul-sucking crime to exist. We have to be comfortable to talk about sexual assault in order to stop it in one generation," she said.

Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence executive director Maisie Tenorio noted that there are several organizations that are willing to help victims of sexual assault such as Karidat Social Services.

"[Karidat] has a 24-hour confidential hotline, the number is 234-5100 for any survivor of sexual assault and sexual violence if they need help or need to talk to somebody," she said.

The organization, Tenorio noted, also assists with referrals to services and also have access to 24-hour shelters if needed.

"Based on the number of people we talked to, we believe that sexual violence and sexual assault is extremely prevalent," she said, quoting Benjamin when she said it is a very underreported crime. "It is even more so for people of Pacific island or Asian descent because of the cultural practices of silence and shame that many are raised with," she added.

For every report of sexual assault, Tenorio said there are many more that are unreported.

"We have talked to survivors who never talked about it even up to their 50s and 60s," she said.

$10K bail for five teens who allegedly stole TV

The CNMI Superior Court imposed a $10,000 bail for each of the five juveniles who allegedly broke into a home and stole a flat screen television.

According to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Adrian Pangelinan, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho issued on April 2, 2019, the arrest warrants for all five juveniles allegedly involved in a burglary and theft in Garapan, and set a bail of $10,000 for each of them.

All five have been arrested and are now facing charges of burglary, theft, and conspiracy to commit burglary and theft.

In a DPS press release, it said that police dispatch received a 911 call on March 26 at around 11:32pm, regarding a possible burglary and theft incident in Garapan.

The DPS Koban—community police—was immediately dispatched to Phoenix Gardens in Garapan.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the suspects gained entry into a guest house by forcing a door open and a flat screen TV had been stolen.

At 2:14am of the same day, officers conducted a follow-up routine check at the guest house and noticed the interior lights were turned on and air-conditioning units were running inside.

The police officers discovered the five juveniles inside the guest house and arrested them.

The suspects allegedly confessed to the burglary.

Because the suspects are considered juvenile, details including their names, age, and gender could not be disclosed. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Four CPA projects worth $16.2M for Saipan port

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has identified four projects worth $16.2 million for the Port of Saipan, including the $6.2-million dock improvements project that will provide additional berthing space for vessels, yachts, ferry, a floating hotel, and accommodate ferry services.

According to the CPA's "Strategic Planning for CNMI Air and Seaports, the Delta Dock Improvements Project will involve extending the Delta Dock to create more berthing spaces, the construction of a roll-on/roll-off ramp, and the construction of a boat ramp.

CPA said the Delta Dock project would extend the dock west of its current location into the channel, structural repairs to cavities seaside, installation of new sheet piles, installation of new fenders and bollards, and installation of a boat ramp for the CPA police.

CPA said a roll-on/roll- off ramp would accommodate ferry services between Saipan and Tinian, with the hope of expanding such a service to Rota and Guam.

CPA said the Delta Dock would also be expanded for bus and vehicular access for any ferries that can transport vehicles.

A new boat ramp will provide quick access for ports police boats and jet skis during emergencies and force protection for cruise ships and military vessels.

The project duration for the Delta Dock Improvements is three years and it is anticipated to start in 2020. CPA is the funding source.

The other big CPA project for the Port of Saipan is the $6-million improvement to the main access road at the port entrance.

The only entrance and exit into the main port is in dire need of repair; in rainy season, the area floods into the Customs Division parking lot, Mobil office and security guard house. Vehicles and cargo truck pass through about 6 to 8 inches of standing water.

"This will repave the entire road from the intersection across the Shell gas station to the three-way traffic light across MH1 and MH2," CPA said.

The project entails improving the drainage system, adding a ponding basin, and repaving the road.

CPA underscored the need to repave the road as it is littered with potholes that causes safety concerns for cargoes entering and exiting the main port.

The project duration is two years and its funding source is CPA/CNMI Grants Office.

The two other projects are the $3-million north and south seaplane ramp-road paving and the $1-million upgrade and replacement of the Ports Police harbor patrol 27-foot boat.

On the seaplane ramp-road, CPA said it is partially paved and is a safety hazard to tourists that frequent the area, and customers receiving and delivering cargo to inter-island shipping companies.

CPA said the only designated dry dock area also needs improvement.

The project is anticipated in 2020, with CPA as the funding source.

CPA said it also needs to secure a new harbor patrol boat as the current one is over 10 years old and is inoperable.

CPA said the boat is a critical asset of the CPA in terms of emergency response capabilities.

The project duration is 12 months, with CPA as the funding source.

CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio said the Strategic Planning outlines what the staff and management have identified as priorities that CPA will pursue over the next four years.

Mariner evacuated for medical emergency

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—The Guam-based "Island Knights" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 provided emergency medical lift for a Chinese mariner in distress aboard a Panamanian flagged dry bulk cargo vessel Friday morning.

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam notified HSC-25 Thursday that the mariner aboard M/V *Ruby Enterprise* had fallen and needed medical attention. The rescue was delayed till *Ruby Enterprise* could travel into aerial range of Guam.

The HSC-25 Alert Search and Rescue led by Aircraft Commander Lt. Nathan Gordon successfully retrieved the mariner in distress via helicopter hoist and returned him to U.S. Naval Hospital Guam where he was in critical condition.

"We received the MEDEVAC call early the night before which gave us some time to plan," said Gordon. "Our planning and early launch time gave this man the best possible chance at recovery. The deck of the ship was not rated for the weight of the MH-60S so my co-pilot, Lt. Petersen, and I took turns holding a stable hover while Petty Officer Nichols hoisted our Flight Surgeon, Lt. Kumetz, search and rescue medical technician, Corpsman Turner and rescue swimmer Petty Officer Attebery to the deck of *Ruby Enterprise*."

"Receiving medical updates throughout the night from Coast Guard Sector Guam, I knew the patient was in critical condition and that time was of the essence." said HSC-25 Flight Surgeon, Lt. Erik Kumetz. "Racing to the ship before first light, I could not be more proud of the professionalism and heroic actions of the crew this morning."

The incident was the 8th emergency call to HSC-25 by U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam and in 2019 to date. ***(Amphibious Force 7th Fleet Public Affairs)***

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Scheduled power interruptions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

- **Tuesday, April 9, 2019 – 8am to 1pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 4 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Chalan Kanoa
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Sunset Drive
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace five wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Tuesday, April 9, 2019 – 8**:30am to 1:30pm
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Obyan
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Obyan
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace seven wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Wednesday, April 10, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Dandan
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Dandan Road
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace nine wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Wednesday, April 10, 2019 – 8**:30am to 1:30pm
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Obyan
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Obyan
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace seven wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Thursday, April 11, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Dandan
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Dandan Road
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace nine wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Friday, April 12, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Dandan
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Dandan Road
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace nine wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Saturday, April 13, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 and Kiya 2 double distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: As Terlaje and Susupe
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Susupe and Chalan Kanoa
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: As Terlaje Booster Tank
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: W-6 and W-8
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace two wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Sunday, April 14, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Dandan
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Dandan Road
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace seven wooden poles with concrete poles

The purpose of the scheduled power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from CUC and its contracting company, Primary Source Electric, the ability to safely replace 70 wooden poles with concrete ones.

The replacements of wooden poles with concrete poles are part of CUC's working obligations to complete its ongoing restoration effort and its FEMA Water System Mitigation Project which are aimed at hardening and strengthening the power distribution system which was affected by Super Typhoon Yutu and Typhoon Soudelor.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING

The University of Guam has committed its support for reaching an islandwide colorectal cancer screening rate of 80 percent with the signing of a pledge last March 14. From left, Marisha Artero, health systems manager, American Cancer Society; Maurissa Sayama, research associate, UOG Cancer Research Center; Tressa Diaz, assistant professor of social work at UOG; UOG president Thomas W. Krise; Cathy Castro, vice chairwoman, Guam Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition; Angelina Mummert, community health educator, UOG Cancer Research Center; and Lawrence Alam, program coordinator IV, Guam Comprehensive Cancer Control Program.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

LIFELESS

From Page 1

dead body in a home in Kagman. Police have yet to release further information about that case, including the gender, name, age of the individual, or whether a formal autopsy had been conducted.

According to a department statement yesterday, police officers were doing a routine patrol around the village of Chalan Kanoa last Friday, April 5, at approximately 12:05am, when they noticed by the beach side a person who appeared unresponsive and did not reply to questions.

The two police officers were patrolling CK's district 4, when they noticed the male individual lying under a concrete bench.

One of the officers noticed that the individual did not look like he was breathing, so both officers got out of their vehicle and notified dispatch of their location and to have medics on standby. As they approached the pavilion, the officers asked the person several questions and got no response.

One officer noticed that the victim's feet were cold to the touch and the other officer noticed that the man had no pulse. The officers immediately notified the DPS central office to summon medics, crime scene technicians, and also requested the assistance of the Criminal Investigative Bureau.

At about 12:15am, medics arrived at the scene and were briefed by the officers on what they discovered.

Shortly after, CSTs arrived to document the scene as CIB detectives investigated.

At approximately 1:20am, the body of the victim was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center for further examination. Dr. Rodney Klassen pronounced the victim dead at about 1:25am.

WATER

From Page 1

"This is expected for the next three months," Camacho said.

The National Weather Service in Guam has extended the notice of anticipated dry weather for the CNMI, Rainfall has diminished over the Commonwealth since January.

With the limited rainfall, deep water wells will be affected at some point because water is not percolated or trickle down, Camacho said.

"People should be responsible in using water," he said. "We're fine for now, but obviously we do have shortage in water from the surface water supply."

Surface water refers to water collecting on ground or in a stream, river, lake, wetland, or ocean.

WILDFIRE

From Page 1

The directive was issued after police visited the school and informed the GMS administration of the possible threat the fire poses to the school.

The fire was still uncontained as of 4pm yesterday and Mallari said that they were fearful that the fire would make its way to the school. The fire was about 300 to 400 meters away from school grounds.

Mallari said that the fire started in the forest near the RNV Construction's barracks that is right next to the school.

Saipan Tribune tried to reach out to the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services; as of 5:30pm yesterday, DFEMS has yet to issue a statement. DFEMS has also yet to release the exact number of wildfires the CNMI has had since January.

Wildfires have been rampant in the CNMI and, according to the National Weather Service, it is attributed to the current drought being felt in the CNMI and other parts of Micronesia.

"Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the far Northern Islands will experience drought impacts during the coming weeks. In particular for Saipan, the drawdown of fresh water resources could be a problem in the next few weeks to months. Vegetation will dry out and a severe wildfire season could develop, especially where debris from [Super] Typhoon Yutu remains," NWS said.

NWS has extended its notice of anticipated dry weather for the CNMI.

Rainfall has reportedly diminished over the Commonwealth since January.

NWS believes that the post-El Niño dry weather will likely continue through the spring of 2019. The northern Marshall Islands north of Majuro, the CNMI, and other areas such as Yap State and the Republic of Palau have received much less than normal rainfall over the past few months. The drought conditions over the Mariana Islands have worsened and that trend will continue through the coming weeks. Saipan and Tinian in particular will suffer from very dry weather.

Both Saipan and Tinian received less than an inch of rainfall in the month of March. Rota received 1.99 inches of rain at the airport, but likely much less over other parts of the island. Showers have been spotty and brief. Rainfall has been abnormally low over the Commonwealth since January. Rainfall will continue to be below normal over the region from April into May.

ATALIG

From Page 1

pital in the Philippines.

If allowed, the mayor plans to travel to Guam on April 18 to catch a flight to the Philippines, and then travel to the Philippines the following day, April 19.

Banes said Atalig's return date is still unknown depending on the status of his treatment and surgery.

Banes said the U.S. government's lawyer has indicated that he would not oppose the request.

Last January, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Atalig's request to travel to Guam to attend the funeral of his sister. Earlier that month, Manglona also granted the mayor's request to travel to Guam to attend a general assembly of the Association of Mariana Islands Mayors, Vice Mayors, and Municipal Council members. Atalig is a member of AMIM.

The U.S. government did not oppose the mayor's requests.

Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, have been charged with wire fraud, theft concerning programs receiving federal funds, and conspiracy to commit wire fraud and federal funds theft. Each faces a separate charge of false statement.

The Ataligs allegedly arranged CNMI government-funded trips to California, Palau, Guam, and Saipan under fraudulent pretenses.

The U.S. government alleged that the primary purpose of these trips was not official business but personal travel or partisan political activity, for which the Ataligs fraudulently claimed per diem and travel reimbursement.

The defendants pleaded not guilty. The trial will be on June 4.

Acting governor Arnold I. Palacios signs the National Library Week proclamation, National Library Workers Day, and National Bookmobile Day proclamations last Saturday at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. ERWIN ENCINARES

Public library and its programs highlighted in weeklong event

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Arnold I. Palacios signed three proclamations last Saturday at the Joeten- Kiyu Public Library to recognize the library, its workers, and its bookmobile program.

Palacios designated the week of April 7-13, 2019, as National Library Week; April 9, 2019, as National Library Workers Day; and April 10, 2019, as National Bookmobile Day.

"Our mission is to enhance the quality of life in our diverse communities by providing opportunities for lifelong learning, dedicating spaces and opportunities to engage, and fostering and making a commitment to literacy," said JKPL director Erlinda C. Naputi in a speech. "We provide amazing library programs and services which encourage community members to meet and discuss civic issues, work together in technologies, and live alongside one another."

She also expressed gratitude to the JKPL staff, saying, "Libraries connect communities in a way that benefits everyone. These library services are not possible if not for my JKPL family team."

Last year, the JKPL, along with the Tinian Public Library and the Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library on Rota, was able to serve over 127 patrons with over 91,000 materials in their collections, 28 workstations, and over 585 free library programs.

"We circulate a total of 40,000 library materials and provide technology access to over 10,000 patrons," she said, adding that libraries continue to struggle with keeping up with the constantly increasing number of materials as well as the growing demand for information.

Commonwealth Library Council vice chair Asapmar Ogumoro reiterated in his speech how libraries affect communities in a positive way.

"We've gathered here to celebrate everything libraries have done, are doing, and will continue to do for the CNMI, including the world," he said. "Let's remember that our library is a central place that continues to serve, teach, and provide valu-

Red Cross Walkathon this Saturday

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 33rd Annual American Red Cross Walkathon would be held this Saturday in Susupe to raise funds for the organization's operations.

The event would begin at 6am starting at the Guma Sakman building in Susupe and offers 10K, 5K, and 2K courses.

Each $20 donation gets you a T-shirt and giveaways.

Additional giveaways such as sandwiches and refreshments are also offered to those who participate as well as a community fair, blood pressure checks, immunizations, cooking demonstrations, carnival games, face painting, bounce houses, and a fire truck and military vehicle show.

The organization is also giving away free Pacific Islands Club Saipan waterpark passes, a $10 fuel voucher for Mobil, a $5 Arch card for McDonald's Saipan, and a F'real smoothie or shake for all walkers who are able to raise $75 on their pledge forms.

The walkathon would be held on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, over 3,000 individuals participated back in 2017, with over 2,000 participants on Saipan. It was able to raise over $70,000.

As usual every year, the proceeds raised from the walkathon, according to a previous interview with American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh, would go to the operations of the ARC, which mostly consists of humanitarian work as well as promoting healthy living.

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Speedy trial date set for man in murder case

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After over a year of delay, a speedy trial date has finally been set for a man who allegedly killed his landlord and injured her husband.

Last week, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho scheduled Alfonso Sebastian Parongan, 56, for a speedy trial on May 15, 2019, over a year since he was arrested for first-degree murder, attempted second-degree murder, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

The alleged incident took place back in October 2017. Due to the long wait, Parongan's lawyer, assistant public defender Nancy Dominski, filed for the dismissal of the charges against her client.

However, assistant attorney general Robert Lee claimed that the delay was caused by the defense.

The court declined to rule on the motion to dismiss the charges against Parongan. Instead, it decided to push forward with the speedy trial.

According to the official response from the government, Parongan, through his lawyer, caused the delay after he pleaded not guilty for reason of insanity and asked to hire an off-island expert to evaluate him.

"Parongan initiated the delay by moving for a mental examination and report to support his insanity defense. Defendant also benefitted from the delay because Dr. Martin Blinder's evaluation is essential to his defense," Lee said.

In a previous article on *Saipan Tribune*, Parongan admitted attacking his landlord and her husband on the evening of Oct. 29, 2017.

Parongan told detectives that he was high on drugs and was drunk on the day of the incident.

Josefina Pineda, 53, suffered multiple stab wounds, including a fatal four-inch slash in the neck, according to detectives.

Her husband, Antonio Barit, 62, sustained 12 slashes in the head, upper body, and right arm.

Pineda was allegedly trying to collect house rental from Parongan at the time and they got into an argument.

Torres letter seeks more Medicaid funds

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' letter seeking help to inject more federal money to the CNMI Medicaid Office was described as helpful in Congress and echoes the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which affirms that the Marianas is nearly out of Medicaid funds.

In the letter sent to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) last month, Torres said that only $270,000 remains in the local Medicaid funds.

The governor's letter reported that the Commonwealth has now used up all but $270,000 of its annual Medicaid grant, as well as the additional $109 million that was included in the Affordable Care Act in 2010 for Marianas Medicaid.

"The letter is helpful, as we work to get more Medicaid money in the disaster supplemental appropriation now stalled in the Senate. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under the Trump administration also attest that the Marianas is out of Medicaid money," said Sablan.

The local Medicaid's funds were provided by the expanded Affordable Care Act, more popularly known as Obamacare, which the Republican-controlled Senate is trying to repeal and replace.

Torres' letter asks Sablan to seek congressional help in assisting the CNMI to mitigate the anticipated impact of the ACA funding on the local Medicaid office.

"[The] Republicans' versions of the bill in the Senate have all but removed the $36 million that I was able to include in the legislation when it passed the House in January," Sablan said.

The $36 million for Medicaid is an amendment to H.R. 268 that Republicans in the Senate removed when the bill reached the chamber.

San Juan tops 15th mahi-mahi fishing derby

Capt. John and crew of the boat *San Juan* topped the 15th Annual Mahi-mahi Fishing Derby last March 30, in the Marianas. The derby, organized by the Saipan Fishermen's Association, attracted 30 boats and 107 participants.

Captain John San Nicolas and angler Errol Moises' 18.7-lb mahi-mahi weighed in for the winning catch.

In second place was an 18.3-lb catch by *10-7* under Capt. Alvin Iglesias.

In third was an 18.2-lb fish by Capt. Bob Taguchi and the crew of *Pastime III*.

The *K Fisher II* and *Victoria* were tied in fourth place with a 17.8-lb mahi-mahi, but since *K Fisher II* had entered the Smiling Cove Marina first, they are the official fourth-place winner. Settling for fifth place, the *Victoria* arrived at the marina at 4:55pm, just minutes before the 5pm cut-off time.

"The Mahi-mahi Derby is a side event that we organize during mahi season and this year we had it around the tail end, so the catches are a bit smaller, but, nonetheless, we had a good turn out and another great derby," said SFA president Gene Weaver.

Weaver also extended the SFA's thank you to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Unit and American Memorial Park for their support and Fishing Tackle, IP&E, Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, Marpac, and Docomo for donating prizes.

The derby started at 6am and concluded at 5pm the same day, with boats launching from and weighing their catch at Smiling Cove Marina.

Prizes include $1,000 cash and in-kind prizes for first place, with remaining placement also receiving cash and in-kind prizes.

"The Mahi-mahi Fishing Derby is not only a great hit for local fisherman, but also an annual event that fishermen from neighboring islands look forward to every year," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "The MVA is pleased to be an annual sponsor of the SFA, which gives visiting fishermen the opportunity to troll the beautiful, deep blue waters of the Marianas."

The Mahi-mahi Fishing Derby is held annually. ***(MVA)***

MVA

Errol T. Moises shows his winning catch at the 15th Annual Mahi-mahi Fishing Derby last March 30, 2019.

Zoning Board

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. 670-234-9661, FAX 234-9666
E-mail ZoningBoard@zoning.gov.mp

Mariano Taitano, Treasurer
Joe E. Ayuyu, Jr., Secretary
Patrick Reyes, Member

NOTICE OF PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETINGS FOR SLL 20-25, NUISANCE ABATEMENT & BLIGHTED PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ACT OF 2018

The Zoning Office will be conducting several Public Outreach and Education Awareness meetings at specified locations around the island with community members, businesses, developers, property-owners, or any interested members of the general public. The first meeting to be held at the **Dandan Middle School on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 5:30pm.**

These meetings are intended to engage the public and discuss **SLL 20-25 Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Property Maintenance Act of 2018.**

The scheduled public outreach meetings within targeted villages are as follows:

DATE	PLACE	TIME
March 12, 2019 – Tues.	Dandan Middle School cafeteria, Dandan	5:30pm
March 14, 2019 – Thurs.	Saipan Southern High School cafeteria, Koblerville	5:30pm
March 19, 2019 – Tues.	Kagman High School cafeteria, Kagman	5:30pm
March 21, 2019 – Thurs.	Tanapag Middle School cafeteria, Tanapag	5:30pm
April 2, 2019 – Tues.	Multipurpose Center, Susupe	5:30pm
April 9, 2019 – Tues.	**GTC Elementary School cafeteria, San Roque**	**5:30pm**
April 16, 2019 – Tues.	**Garapan Elementary School cafeteria, Garapan**	**5:30pm**

The Zoning Board and Office encourages the public to join and attend the meetings to learn more about **SLL 20-25 Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Property Maintenance Act of 2018.**

SLL 20-25 may be viewed and downloaded from our website at www.zoning.gov.mp

For more information, please call the Zoning Office at 234-9661 or visit the office located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building located in Dandan.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

KCHC closed on April 10 for staff training

The Kagman Community Health Center will be closed on Wednesday, April 10, 2019. The staff and management will be undergoing training. Regular office hours will resume on Thursday, April 11.

To make an appointment or to get information, call 256-KCHC (5242). Walk-ins are welcome depending on availability. Patients with appointments are given priority to be seen.

KCHC is a federally qualified health center that serves all patients regardless of inability to pay. Everyone is welcome, even those that reside outside the Kagman area. ***(PR)***

Underwater training in Outer Apra Harbor

ASAN, Guam—U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 will conduct routine underwater detonation training in outer Apra Harbor on April 12, from 8am to 4pm.

EODMU-5 will detonate a total of five lbs of explosives at the designated UNDET location on a sandy area of the sea floor.

For the safety of the public and participants involved, the Coast Guard will establish safety zones to restrict access in the vicinity of the training area.

For the safety of personnel and marine life, the area will be visually cleared by divers and by lookouts on the surface before, during and after the exercise. All activity will cease temporarily if a person or marine life is seen in the area. ***(PR)***

Walk & Roll in Kagman on April 10

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is inviting community members to take part in the Walk & Roll Against Sexual Violence on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 in Kagman.

Registration will start at 5pm at Kagman High School with the walk starting at 5:30pm. The first 100 individuals to register will also receive a free T-shirt.

Walk & Roll participants are also highly encouraged to create signs or banners to help spread awareness on Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which is this April, and on sexual violence and/or to show support for victims and survivors. This year's theme for the U.S. and CNMI is "I Ask" which stresses the importance of consent in ending sexual violence.

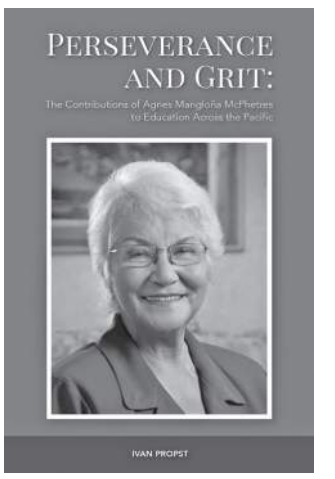
For more information, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org. Also, if you or someone who you know is experiencing sexual violence, call 911 for emergency assistance or call the 24 hour and confidential Victim Hotline at 234-5100. ***(PR)***

New book highlights Agnes McPhetres' role in education

The public is invited to attend the launch for Ivan Propst's new book on Thursday, April 11, from 5pm to 7pm at the American Memorial Park Visitor's Center Theater.

Propst's new book is titled *Perseverance and Grit: The Contributions of Agnes Manglona McPhetres to Education Across the Pacific.*

There will be a brief presentation by Propst with questions and answers to follow as well as the book signing by Agnes McPhetres and Propst.



McPhetres, the current chief executive officer of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, is a former president of the Northern Marianas College.

Publication of the book was made possible by support from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, a nonprofit, private corporation funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. ***(PR)***

Over 80 join PSS' first dev't training program for staff

Over 80 join the first ever Public School System's administrative staff professional development training Saturday.

ERWIN ENCINARES

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 80 administrative and support staff participated in the Public School System's first ever administrative staff professional development training held over the weekend at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

PSS has always hosted professional development training for its teachers but last Saturday's event was specifically intended for administrative support PSS personnel. A total of 85 administrative staff from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota attended the training that included topics such as innovative technology training, mindfulness training, customer service training, and even non-violent verbal and non-verbal de-escalation techniques, among several others.

"We believe that learning catalyzes growth and improvement. Over the years, PSS has created opportunities for its teacher, administrators, counselors, and librarians; however, there has never been a focused, district-wide professional development just for administrative support staff who play a critical role in the daily operations of PSS schools and offices," PSS director of instructional technology Dr. Bobby Cruz noted in a statement.

PSS associate commissioner Dr. Yvonne Pangelinan also pointed out that with April being the Administrative Professionals Month, it is only fitting for PSS to have developmental training for the support staff.

"We wanted to offer an opportunity to the administrative professionals in our school district—the ones in the school buildings and in the central office—to engage in some training so that they can improve their skills," Pangelinan said in an interview.

Pangelinan also spoke about de-escalation techniques at the training.

"It's really all about them, and they are usually in the office taking care of everything and they never have the chance to come together and have an opportunity to grow professionally, so the students and support services wanted to give them that chance to gain more skills," she said.

One of the attendees, PSS finance office accountant Joserine Mendiola, said, "We've needed this for awhile."

Mendiola has been with PSS for a total of five years.

"It's not very often that they gather administrative professionals in a venue like this to brainstorm, collaborate, and try and find ways to grow," she said. "A lot of the training revolved around a fixed and growth mindset thinking and how to expand your perspective on daily challenges."

"It's nice to hear that there are other people in the organization who are going through the same challenges and it's nice to get feedback from people who have overcome those challenges," she added.

"We as [administrative staff] don't have trainings as opposed to other agencies where they send their [staff] abroad," said Personal Responsibility Education Program administrative officer Crispin Deleon Guerrero Jr., who has been with PSS for three years. "With this program, PSS is able to give us the resources we need and also allows to reflect on how important we are as well as their expectations."

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Disability sports festival is held CNMI-wide

The CNMI Disability Sports Festival on Tinian on March 30, 2019, drew scores of participants. These photos are from that event.

The festival on Saipan is scheduled for April 13 and will be held at Marianas High School.

Rota hosted the CNMI Disability Sports Festival last Saturday, April 6, at the Rota Gym.

The sports festival is made possible by Office of the Governor Grants Management, Lady Diann Torres Foundation, Public School System, Center for Independent Living, Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc., Saipan Mayor's Office, Tinian Mayor's Office, Rota Mayor's Office, Voices, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, JC Tenorio Ent. Inc., Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Bridge Capital, IT&E, and countless volunteers. ***(PR)***

Torres elected PIDB board chair

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres joins members of the Pacific Islands Development Bank board of governors in Koror, Palau. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Over the weekend in Koror, Palau, chief executives and representatives of the Pacific elected Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to assume the chairmanship of the Pacific Islands Development Bank during its recent board of governors regular meeting.

Current members include the CNMI, Guam, Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Marshall Islands.

"I thank my colleagues from across the Pacific for their confidence in me to chair this important financial institution for our region. I look forward to working with our member countries to foster economic and social development through the PIDB's programs. We have an opportunity to address longstanding economic issues and advocate for economic stability within our region," Torres said.

The Pacific Islands Development Bank is a regional development finance institution established to assist member countries in accelerating their economic and social development through its lending and other programs. The creation of the PIDB began with a concept for a regional development bank that was endorsed by the Association of Pacific Islands Legislatures in May 1987. After two years of ratification by the member countries, as well as initial capital, the PIDB was officially formed on July 5, 1989.

The governance of the Pacific Islands Development Bank is vested in the board of governors who represent the owners/shareholders of the bank. Each member country appoints two governors, one representing the Executive Branch and one representing the Legislative Branch. The PIDB governors are ultimately responsible for overseeing the bank´s activities and administration, as well as make major policy decisions affecting the region. ***(PR)***

Flame Tree Arts Festival week starts this Thursday night

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The cultural heritage of performing arts, traditional crafts, visual arts, and literary arts in the CNMI will be the highlight this week, with April 11 to April 14 proclaimed as the Flame Tree Arts Festival Week.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios signed the 38th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival Week proclamation yesterday at the Civic Center Beach Park Canoe House in Susupe, where the 2019 Flame Tree Arts Festival will be held starting this Thursday evening.

The festival will be held from 6pm to 11pm on April 11 and April 12, at the Civic Center Park in Susupe. On Saturday, April 13, to Saturday, April 14, the festival would be up and running from 2pm to 11pm.

Considered the flagship festival of the Commonwealth Councils of Arts and Culture, it has been held annually for 38 years.

"It is the longest running arts and cultural festival in all of Micronesia," said Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary Robert Hunter. The DCCA runs the CCAC, which hosts the festival.

"The festival celebrates the best of this Commonwealth—the long and rich cultural heritage of Chamorro and Carolinian people and the melting pot of many other cultures that call this place home. It reminds us of what is truly unique about this place," Hunter said in a speech yesterday.

Hunter also spoke about CCAC's losses during the destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu in late October 2018, saying it is actually "a miracle" that the festival is happening at all.

"Having been hit by a devastating storm less than six months ago, many of our staff are just coming off recovery duties and some are still involved with the recovery," he said.

In a previous interview told *Saipan Tribune,* CCAC executive director Parker Yobei said that the council lost several of its electrical components to hold festivals, causing a four-month closure of the weekly Thursday Night Street Market. According to Yobei, many electrical components were blown away during the typhoon.

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INVITATION FOR BIDS
NMC IFB 19-001

COMMERCIAL RIDING MOWERS
NMC CREES SAIPAN, ROTA and TINIAN RESEARCH STATION

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of New Commercial Riding Mowers for CREES Saipan, Rota and Tinian Research Station.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. 0, commencing Monday (March 11th, 2019) between the hours of 9: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.** As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, Award # 2018-31100 (Regular)

In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., April 09, 2019, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. 0, AsTerlaje Campus, Saipan, MP 96950.
For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via email or hand delivery to Robert Suzuki (robert.suzuki@marianas.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by the following:

/s/ Robert Suzuki
NMC Acting Procurement Manager

/s/ Patricia Coleman
Interim Dean-Director, NMC CREES

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/COTA19-RFP-003

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 3, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY (COTA) ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed Proposals for the Construction Management Services for the **Construction of the Commonwealth of Transit Authority (COTA) Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 ed. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulations.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Esther S. Fleming, Executive Director, at telephone numbers (670)234-5897/5898 or by facsimile to (670) 234-6040.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **April 2, 2019** at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars ($50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Department of Public Works Conference Room**, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Building on **April 19, 2019.** Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **April 30, 2019**.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with **§70-30.3-305** of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, 2004 ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Project Team – 20%
2. Capacity – 20%
3. Past Performance – 25%
4. Local Knowledge & Proximity to the project – 10%
5. Project Approach- 25%

The entire Proposal must not be more than Twenty-Five (25) pages in length. A firm that submits a Proposal as a prime consultant cannot submit as a subconsultant on another Proposal. However, a sub-consultant may submit as sub-consultant on proposals by more than one prime consultant.

The successful Proposer shall be subject to a responsibility determination in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, **§70-30.3-245**.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW/COTA19-RFP-003"**. For Proposers located within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, May 3, 2019**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, May 3, 2019**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 3, 2019** – AND must be received no later than **May 14, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals is solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified Firms. Fee proposals may be used in determining a fair and reasonable price.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ JOE A. TUDELA
ACTING DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The tragic death of Sandy Hook father Jeremy Richman carries with it a sobering lesson: Love may not win

In the dark days that followed the massacre at Sandy Hook, one phrase spoke to the sliver of hope and optimism a grieving state was desperately hanging onto: Love Wins.

Two words spoke to the enduring belief that whatever hatred might have driven the shooter to commit the unthinkable, the blanket of love woven by family, friends and others across the nation was powerful enough to eclipse the darkness.

Were we naive? Foolish, perhaps? Maybe.

If the horror of Sandy Hook was unthinkable, the depravity that followed was unimaginable. Conspiracy theorists concocted garbage fictions to drive paranoid agendas or simply grab attention. They attacked grieving parents, public officials and journalists. Those who sought to eradicate the weapons of mass destruction that making killing far too easy were vilified as un-American, as if patriotism was defined by how loudly one could chant "USA" while waving an AR-15 around. Social media became littered with venality.

And this month, we saw just how far we've fallen.

Two survivors of the massacre at Marjorie Stoneham Douglas High School in Parkland took their own lives.

Here, in Newtown, Jeremy Richman—who not only had to endure the death of his beloved daughter, Avielle, at Sandy Hook but the inanity of those who suggested her death had been staged—took his own life. "He succumbed to the grief that he could not escape," wrote his wife, Jennifer Hensel.

Then, a few days later, we learned from the *Washington Post* that in the days after Parkland, an NRA official reached out to one of the Sandy Hook truthers to explore what questions might be raised in the wake of the official narrative of the shooting in Florida.

There's clearly a battle going on right now, but too many are looking at it wrong. It's not so much about left vs. right or blue vs. red.

It's between those willing to listen and learn the truth of things and those who want to manipulate facts to serve their own agendas. It's between those who still believe in the promise of one indivisible nation and those who are trying to weaponize hate and division. It's about the politics of destruction against the politics of hope.

And there is no standing on the sideline anymore.

If you stand silent in the face of falsehood or manipulation or hate, you're a party to it. If you think your gratuitous, nasty comments on Facebook are some sort of exercise in truth telling, all you're doing is adding to the bile. If you just want to be left alone and believe this battle is someone else's, you're making it easier for the wrong side to win.

Love may yet win, but it surely has a long way to go.

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I'M WORRIED BARR WILL REDACT TOO MUCH OF THE MUELLER REPORT.
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MIKE SMITH

Dumping capitalism won't save the planet

By NOAH SMITH
Bloomberg News

Noah Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He was an assistant professor of finance at Stony Brook University, and he blogs at Noahpinion.*

It has become fashionable on social media and in certain publications to argue that capitalism is killing the planet. Even renowned investor Jeremy Grantham, hardly a radical, made that assertion last year. The basic idea is that the profit motive drives the private sector to spew carbon into the air with reckless abandon. Though many economists and some climate activists believe that the problem is best addressed by modifying market incentives with a carbon tax, many activists believe that the problem can't be addressed without rebuilding the economy along centrally planned lines.

The climate threat is certainly dire, and carbon taxes are unlikely to be enough to solve the problem. But eco-socialism is probably not going to be an effective method of addressing that threat. Dismantling an entire economic system is never easy, and probably would touch off armed conflict and major political upheaval. In the scramble to win those battles, even the socialists would almost certainly abandon their limitation on fossil-fuel use—either to support military efforts, or to keep the population from turning against them. The precedent here is the Soviet Union, whose multidecade effort to reshape its economy by force amid confrontation with the West led to profound environmental degradation. The world's climate does not have several decades to spare.

Even without international conflict, there's little guarantee that moving away from capitalism would mitigate our impact on the environment. Since socialist leader Evo Morales took power in Bolivia, living standards have improved substantially for the average Bolivian, which is great. But this has come at the cost of higher emissions. Meanwhile, the capitalist U.S managed to decrease its per capita emissions a bit during this same period (though since the U.S. is a rich country, its absolute level of emissions is much higher).

In other words, in terms of economic growth and carbon emissions, Bolivia looks similar to more capitalist developing countries. That suggests that faced with a choice of enriching their people or helping to save the climate, even socialist leaders will often choose the former. And that same political calculus will probably hold in China and the U.S., the world's top carbon emitters—leaders who demand draconian cuts in living standards in pursuit of environmental goals will have trouble staying in power.

The best hope for the climate therefore lies in reducing the tradeoff between material prosperity and carbon emissions. That requires technology—solar, wind and nuclear power, energy storage, electric cars and other vehicles, carbon-free cement production and so on. The best climate policy plans all involve technological improvement as a key feature.

Recent developments show that the technology-centered approach can work. A recent report by Bloomberg New Energy Finance analyzed about 7000 projects in 46 countries, and found that large drops in the cost of solar power from photovoltaic systems, wind power and lithium-ion batteries have made utility-scale renewable electricity competitive with fossil fuels. A 76 percent decline in the levelized cost of energy (a standardized measure of total cost) for short-term battery storage since 2012 is especially important.

In a blog post, futurist and energy writer Ramez Naam underscores the significance of these developments. Naam notes the important difference between renewables being cheap enough to outprice new fossil-fuel plants, and being inexpensive enough to undercut existing plants. The former is already the case across much of the world, which is among the reasons for an 84 percent decrease in the number of new coal-fired plants worldwide since 2015.

But when it becomes cheaper to scrap existing fossil-fuel plants and build renewables in their place, it will allow renewables to start replacing coal and gas much more quickly. Naam cites examples from Florida and Indiana where this is already being done. He cites industry predictions that replacing existing fossil-fuel plants with renewables will be economically efficient almost everywhere at some point in the next decade.

Electricity is far from the only source of carbon emissions—there's also transportation, manufacturing (especially of steel and cement), home and office heating and agriculture to worry about. But the rapid advance of solar technology is a huge victory in

See DUMPING on Next Page

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Litigation is not the only way to solve a dispute: Consider mediation and arbitration too

By JORDAN SUNDELL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business and real-estate law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including Joint Marketing. His columns—focused mainly on real estate and small business—are published every other Tuesday.

Imagine that you wanted to add a carport to your house, so you hired some contractors. But the first time a storm hit, the carport came tumbling down, destroying your new truck in the process. What should you do? One choice is to sue the contractor. But that requires hiring (and paying for) a lawyer and then waiting (often years) until a judge or jury renders a verdict. Only then will you know if you won—or lost.

Or consider another scenario: Let's say business partners disagree over whether one of the partners acted appropriately in a situation. Neither partner wants to break up the partnership over the dispute, but they can't agree and therefore need an outsider to make a decision so that the business can move forward. If they turned to a judge, it could take years to get an answer even though the partners need a decision now.

Is there an alternative for the homeowner and the business partners? Yes, two actually: Meditation and arbitration.

Mediation is a private, informal way to resolve disputes through a negotiation guided by a neutral third party whose goal is to help the parties reach a mutually agreeable solution. There's no judge and no jury. There's also no splashy post in the *Saipan Tribune* announcing that one party sued the other party.

How does the process work? That's up to the parties. They get to decide the procedure. But a typical procedure is as follows: The mediator will explain the rules and procedure to the parties. Each party will then describe the dispute. Afterwards, the mediator will ask clarification questions to understand the dispute. At this point, each party will go into a separate room. The mediator will then go back and forth between each room with the goal of understanding each side's point of view, identifying solutions, and negotiating on behalf of the other party. If a deal is reached, the mediator puts it in writing and then has the parties sign.

Mediation can be a great choice. It's confidential. It's faster and less expensive than a lawsuit. And the parties are more likely to be friends at the end of it. Compare that to litigation, which is normally long and nasty, leading to years of bad blood before a judge or jury imposes a solution.

Another bonus: In the CNMI, if you file a lawsuit, the court will require you to engage in mediation early in the litigation anyway, so there's little harm in trying mediation before a lawsuit is filed. The key risk to delaying a lawsuit in favor of mediation is in situations where a person's claim must be filed within a certain time limit. In these situations, delay can mean losing the claim altogether.

Mediation does, however, have some drawbacks. For one, it's not a great way to get the truth. It has no mechanisms for forcing the other side to testify or turn over evidence (unlike litigation). For another, it can reward aggressive personalities. For this reason, mediation is an especially poor choice to resolve family disputes involving an abuser.

Now let's look at the other option: arbitration. Arbitration in many ways is just a streamlined (and confidential) version of a lawsuit. It goes as follows: The parties agree to arbitrate—usually in a contract well before the actual dispute. Once a dispute arises, a party sends the other party a notice of intent to arbitrate. From there, each party decides who will arbitrate the dispute. In small disputes, one arbitrator is enough. In bigger disputes, each party normally selects an arbitrator and then those arbitrators collectively pick a third arbitrator. After that, the arbitrators set up a timeline for each party to provide written statements. In some cases, the arbitrators will decide the dispute purely using the written statements. In other cases, there will also be a hearing at which the parties present evidence, question witnesses, and make arguments. And then the arbitrators will issue a written decision before a pre-approved deadline.

Why go through all of these steps if you would do much of the same thing during litigation? For at least three reasons.

First, speed. Arbitrations are normally much faster than litigation, especially on Saipan. Arbitrations can wrap up in weeks or months. Litigation typically takes years.

Second, finality. Once an arbitrator issues a decision it is very difficult to overturn it. And, so, if you need a decision that you can rely on quickly, arbitration is a good avenue. Litigation, on the other hand, can drag on for years after the trial is over.

Third, confidentiality. Arbitration happens in private. Litigation is a public record with the trial taking place in open court for anyone to watch. Thus, if a party wants to keep a dispute quiet, arbitration is a better choice than litigation.

But arbitration has some downsides. The main one for our purposes is that if the arbitration is complex, it can be more expensive than litigation. The reason is that in arbitration, you are paying for both your lawyers and the arbitrators. In litigation, however, society shares the cost of solving the dispute by paying for the judge and jury.

The takeaway: If you have a dispute, don't assume that your only choice is a lawsuit. Sometimes it would be better for you to mediate or arbitrate. To figure out the right choice for you, ask your lawyer.

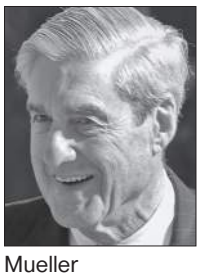
Do Democrats hate Trump more than they love America?

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. *Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.*

The most troubling thing about the end of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation was the reaction of so many on the left when they learned that Donald Trump was not a Russian asset. They were, to put it mildly, disappointed.

MSNBC host Chris Matthews appeared apoplectic (admittedly not unusual for him) and went into a rant that ended with: "How can they let Trump off the hook?"



Mueller

His colleague Joy Reid took aim at Attorney General William Barr's neutrality and referred to the "seeds of a cover-up."

Rep. Adam Schiff (D., Calif.), chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, gave an interview to the Washington Post, where he rejected Mueller's findings, stating that "undoubtedly there is collusion." He also said, "We will continue to investigate the counterintelligence issues. That is, is the president or people around him compromised in any way by a hostile foreign power? It doesn't appear that was any part of Mueller's report."

Rep. Jerry Nadler (D., N.Y.), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, continued to insist that despite the Mueller report clearing the president and his associates from colluding with the Russians, "We know there was collusion ... why there's been no indictments, we don't know."

And these were just some of the high-profile Democrats and Trump critics who were so invested in the Mueller investigation's ability to take down the president that they lost sight of what was really important: confirmation that President Trump and members of his campaign did not conspire or coordinate with the Russian government to get him elected.

Instead of exulting in joy, many Democrats acted like kids who hadn't gotten everything on their Christmas list. That's frightening. There is something twisted in the idea that Americans would rather have their partisan dreams fulfilled than be assured that the man who leads us—however repellent his character and policies might be—is not a traitor.

This surprised me, even after two years of suggestions that a Manchurian Candidate occupied the White House. My Facebook news feed regularly filled up with comments and articles on how Michael Flynn, Michael Cohen, Paul Manafort or fill-in-the-blank random Trump associate was the canary in the coal mine of the president's demise, and that Mueller would expose the strings attached to Russian President Vladimir Putin's puppet.

But still, I assumed that my fellow Americans were hoping that our country was not compromised and our president was not guilty of treason. For those who truly love this country and hope that it can withstand even the most troubling assaults on its institutional integrity, that's a no-brainer.

But when news of the report was released, something was unleashed on the left that convinces me there are people there who hate Trump more than they love this country.

The left's barely concealed distress at seeing the president cleared of collusion and conspiracy with Russia and their insistence that this isn't over, and that he can still be found guilty of treason is proof positive to me that the real threat to this country is a willingness to sacrifice everything we hold dear—due process, presumption of innocence, and respect for our legal system—in a narrowly focused crusade to undo the results of an election.

I sympathize with those who reject this president and his policies. I am far from an apologist for his governance, as I've stated on numerous occasions, to the chagrin of many of my fellow conservatives. I get as much hate mail from Trump loyalists as I do from those who want him gone yesterday.

But this is about something much more sinister than mere opposition to a political opponent. It is one thing to despise President Trump. It is quite another to be disappointed that our leader is not a Russian asset. I think some people need a refresher on the definition of "traitor."

DUMPING

From Page 10

the struggle against climate change, because it will allow people all over the world to have electricity without cooking the planet.

And how was this victory achieved? A combination of smart government policy and private industry. Massachusetts Institute of Technology researchers Goksin Kavlak, James McNerney and Jessika Trancik in a recent paper evaluated the factors behind the solar-price decline from 1980 to 2012. They concluded that from 1980 to 2001, government-funded research and development was the main factor in bringing down costs, but from 2001 to 2012, the biggest factor was economies of scale. These economies of scale were driven by private industry increasing output, but with government subsidies helping to increase the incentive to ramp up production.

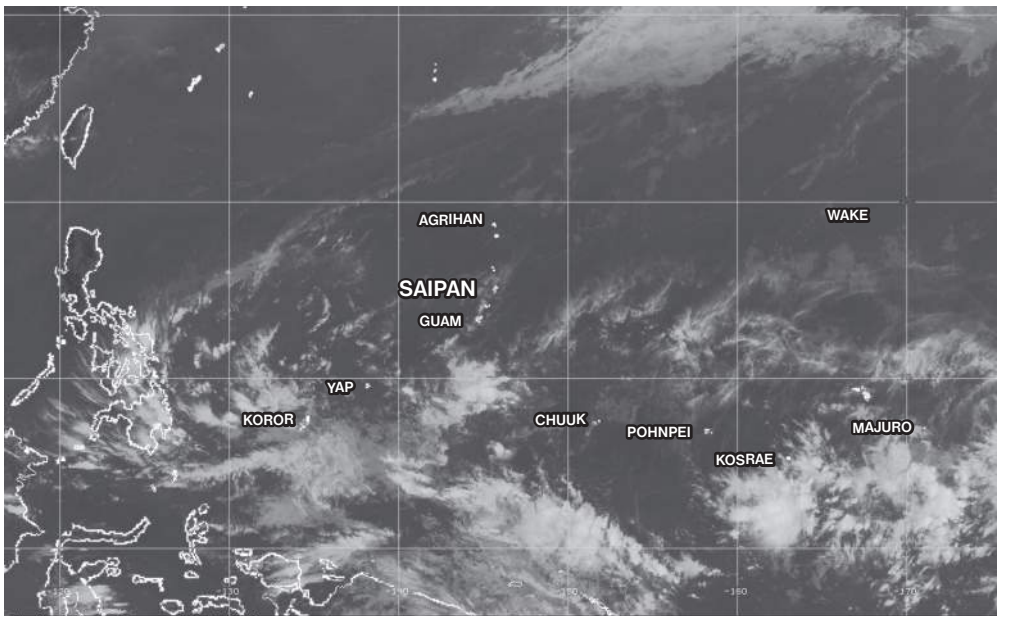
It's apparent, therefore, that both government and profit-seeking enterprises have their roles to play. Government funds the development of early-stage technology and then helps push the private sector toward adopting those technologies, while private companies compete to find ever-cheaper methods of implementation. Instead of eco-socialism, it's eco-industrialism. If there's any system that can beat climate change, this looks like it.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly sunny with a slight chance of light showers. northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.
89° 77°	89° 77°	88° 77°	88° 78°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:27 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Models show a continuing trend of dry weather for the Marianas for the next couple of weeks. Periodic disturbances will pass through Micronesia but moisture will stay south of 10N. Continued dry weather will allow the fire danger to slowly increase, but weak winds will limit the rate of spread of fires that develop. Seas will see little change this week with gentle to moderate winds and combined seas of 4 to 5 feet persisting into next weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	84° / 79°
Kosrae	Cloudy	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	70° / 61°
Beijing	Cloudy	64° / 39°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	82° / 75°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 71°
London	Rain	52° / 45°
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 57°
Manila	Showers	95° / 81°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	63° / 46°
Miami	Thunderstorms	82° / 71°
New York	Cloudy	61° / 46°
Osaka	Rain	55° / 48°
Paris	Showers	63° / 45°
Busan	Windy	57° / 46°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	64° / 46°
Salem	Rain	74° / 57°
San Francisco	Windy	60° / 49°
Seoul	Cloudy	55° / 36°
Tokyo	Rain	48° / 43°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	80° / 52°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:12 AM	LOW TIDE	0.86
9:34 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.83
4:34 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.03
11:13 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.79

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:49 AM	9:54 PM	-
Wednesday	9:37 AM	10:50 PM	-
Thursday	10:30 AM	11:48 PM	-
Friday	11:26 AM	-	-
Saturday	-	12:46 AM	12:25 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/1939:15am		10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	3:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Nissan shareholders OK ouster of Ghosn from board

TOKYO (AP)—Nissan shareholders approved on Monday the ouster from the Japanese automaker's board former Chairman Carlos Ghosn, who faces allegations of financial misconduct.

The approval was shown by applause from the more than 4,000 people gathered at a Tokyo hotel for a three-hour extraordinary shareholders' meeting. Other votes had been submitted in advance.

Ahead of the vote, Nissan's top executive apologized to its shareholders for the scandal at the Japanese automaker and asked them to approve Ghosn's dismissal.

Chief Executive Hiroto Saikawa and other Nissan Motor Co. executives bowed deeply in apology to shareholders attending the extraordinary meeting at a Tokyo hotel.

Shareholders also approved the appointment of French alliance partner Renault SA's chairman Jean-Dominique Senard to replace Ghosn. Renault owns 43 percent of Nissan.

Senard, introduced to shareholders at the meeting's end, thanked them and promised to do his best to keep the automaker's performance on track.

"I will dedicate my energy to enhance the future of Nissan," said Senard.

They likewise also gave a green light to removing from the board a former executive direct, Greg Kelly, who has been charged with collaborating with Ghosn in the alleged misconduct.

AP

In this April 3, 2019 photo, former Nissan Chairman Carlos Ghosn in a car leaves his lawyer's office in Tokyo. Japanese prosecutors took Ghosn for questioning Thursday, April 4, 2019, barely a month after he was released on bail ahead of his trial on financial misconduct charges.

Angry shareholders demanded an explanation for how wrongdoing on an allegedly massive scale had gone unchecked for years. The meeting was closed except to stockholders but livestreamed.

One shareholder said Nissan's entire management should resign immediately. Saikawa said he felt his responsibility lay in fixing the shoddy corporate governance at Nissan first, and continuing to lead its operations.

Another shareholder asked if Nissan was prepared for a damage lawsuit from shareholders since its stock price has plunged.

"I deeply, deeply apologize for all the worries and troubles we have caused," Saikawa said. "This is an unprecedented and unbelievable misconduct by a top executive."

He outlined the findings of an internal investigation, such as payments of a consultation fee to Ghosn's sister for 13 years. The investigation has also found too much power had been focused in one person, he said.

Ken Miyamoto, 65, a Nissan shareholder, said he was disappointed.

"It is really such a pity as he was a brilliant manager," Miyamoto said of Ghosn before heading into the meeting. "I guess he became complacent as people kept praising him too much."

Ghosn says he is innocent of all allegations and has suggested the accusations were made by some people at Nissan hoping to remove him from power.

He has been charged with under-reporting his compensation in financial documents, and with breach of trust in having Nissan shoulder investment losses and making suspect payments to a Saudi businessman. Ghosn says the compensation was never decided on or paid, no investment losses were suffered by Nissan, and the payments were for legitimate services.

Ghosn was arrested in November, released on bail in early March and then re-arrested for a fourth time last week. The latest arrest was in connection with fresh allegations that $5 million sent by a Nissan Motor Co. subsidiary and meant for an Oman dealership was diverted to a company effectively controlled by Ghosn.

His detention on that allegation has been approved through April 14 but could be extended. The date of his trial has not been set.

Yokohama-based Nissan, which makes the Leaf electric car, March subcompact and Infiniti luxury models, was on the brink of bankruptcy when Renault sent Ghosn to turn it around two decades ago.

American Airlines extends Max-caused cancellations to June 5

WASHINGTON (AP)—American Airlines is extending by over a month its cancellations of about 90 daily flights as the troubled 737 Max plane remains grounded by regulators.

American said Sunday it is extending the cancellations through June 5 from the earlier timeframe of April 24. The airline acknowledged in a statement that the prolonged cancellations could bring disruption for some travelers.

The Boeing-made Max jets have been grounded in the U.S. and elsewhere since mid-March, following two deadly crashes in Ethiopia and Indonesia. Airlines that own them have been scrambling other planes to fill some Max flights while canceling others.

American Airlines Group Inc., the largest U.S. airline by revenue, has 24 Max jets in its fleet. The Dallas-based airline said it is awaiting information from U.S. regulators, and will contact customers affected by the cancellations with available re-bookings.

Boeing and the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration said last week the company needs more time to finish changes in a flight-control system suspected of playing a role in the two crashes. That means airlines could be forced to park their Max jets longer than they expected.

American said Sunday that by canceling the flights in advance, "we are able to provide better service to our customers with availability and re-booking options," and to avoid last-minute flight disruptions.

American's reservations staff will contact affected customers directly by email or phone, the airline said. "We know these cancellations and changes may affect some of our customers, and we are working to limit the impact to the smallest number of customers," the statement said.

Boeing said Friday that it will cut production of the Max jet, its best-selling plane, underscoring the mounting financial risk it faces the longer the airliner remains grounded.

Starting in mid-April, Boeing said, it will cut production of the plane to 42 from 52 planes per month so it can focus on fixing the flight-control software that has been implicated in the two crashes.

Preliminary investigations into the deadly accidents in Ethiopia and Indonesia found that faulty sensor readings erroneously triggered an anti-stall system that pushed down the plane's nose. Pilots of each plane struggled in vain to regain control over the automated system.

In all, 346 people died in the crashes. Boeing faces a growing number of lawsuits filed by families of the victims.

The announcement to cut production came after Boeing acknowledged that a second software issue has emerged that needs fixing on the Max—a discovery that explained why the aircraft maker had pushed back its ambitious schedule for getting the planes back in the air.

UK holds out hope for Brexit compromise by Friday deadline

LONDON (AP)—Cross-party talks to jumpstart plans for Brexit are expected to resume before the U.K.'s Friday deadline for leaving the European Union, and the opposition Labour Party is hopeful the country's political impasse can be resolved, a party negotiator said Sunday.

British Prime Minister Theresa May reluctantly reached out to Labour lawmakers Tuesday after Parliament voted down her divorce deal with the EU for the third time. The move infuriated pro-Brexit lawmakers in her Conservative Party, and three days of bargaining with the opposition didn't yield a compromise agreement.

While Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn faulted the government, saying it showed no willingness to budge from its previous Brexit positions, Labour business minister Rebecca Long-Bailey held out hope and said further talks are expected.

The discussions' "overall mood is quite a positive and hopeful one" despite the government's "disappointing" failure to shift its stance on several issues, she said.

"The sad thing is at the moment, we haven't seen overall any real changes to the deal, but we are hopeful that will change in coming days, and we are willing to continue the talks as we know the government are," Long-Bailey told the BBC.

"We are currently waiting for the government to come back to us now to state whether they are prepared to move on any of their red lines," she added.

May acknowledged Saturday that the government had failed to get the withdrawal deal she struck with the EU through Parliament despite her best efforts and "there is no sign it can be passed in the near future."

That left her with no choice but to reach out to the opposition, the prime minister said. May warned that any Brexit could "slip through our fingers" unless a cross-party compromise was found.

Labour's key demand is for a customs union with the EU post-Brexit to protect the flow of goods. Hard-line Brexiteers vehemently oppose any proposal that would continue to bind the U.K. to EU tariff rules and restrict Britain's ability to strike its own free trade deals around the world.

Long-Bailey insisted that Labour wants to avoid a no-deal Brexit "in any situation" and was prepared to cancel Brexit rather than see Britain crash out of the EU with no agreement in place, an outcome expected to wreak havoc on businesses and disrupt travel throughout Europe.

But Conservative lawmaker Andrea Leadsom said Sunday a no-deal scenario wouldn't be "nearly as grim as many would advocate." She said the governing party was working "through gritted teeth" with Labour to find a compromise, but its bottom line is Britain leaving the EU.

The bloc agreed last month to postpone Brexit day, originally set for March 29, and set April 12 as the new deadline under certain conditions.

Britain has until Friday to approve the existing withdrawal agreement, to change course and seek a further delay to Brexit, or to crash out of the EU without an agreement.

May has asked the remaining EU countries for another postponement that would extend to June 30, hoping to secure an alternative deal from the opposition negotiations and Parliament in a matter of weeks.

Other European leaders are expected to respond to the delay request during a summit in Brussels scheduled for Wednesday.

Nation

Slaying puts focus on ride-hailing safety, fake drivers

In this Jan. 12, 2016, file photo, a ride share car displays Lyft and Uber stickers on its front windshield in downtown Los Angeles. AP

CHICAGO (AP)—Whenever Rachel Orden calls for an Uber, the 20-year-old Michigan State University sophomore immediately walks to the back of the vehicle to check the license plate number, then opens the door and waits for the driver to say her name before getting in.

Even then, she devises a backup plan in case she feels uncomfortable.

"How could I get out? Could I unlock the door? Who do I have on speed dial? Could I jump out safely if I needed to? All that goes through my mind," said Orden, of Naples, Florida, who uses the ride-hailing service about once a week, usually when going out at night. She said the March 29 slaying of University of South Carolina student Samantha Josephson, who mistakenly got into a vehicle she thought was her Uber ride, has made her even more cautious.

It also has prompted law enforcement agencies and ride-hailing companies to intensify efforts to warn passengers against getting in without checking to ensure both the vehicle and driver are legitimate. Although no official tallies exist, there have been several high-profile cases involving would-be robbers and assailants posing as ride-hailing drivers—often at bars. Police in South Carolina have not said if that was what the driver did in Josephson's case.

"You do have individuals who are predatory and roving around looking for potential victims," said Chicago Police Department spokesman Anthony Guglielmi, adding that fraudulent drivers are drawn to bars because people might be drunk and not paying attention.

A Chicago-area man was charged with raping four women he picked up at bars after posing as an Uber driver in 2017. He picked up a fifth woman in a taxi, authorities said. Musaab Afundi has pleaded not guilty to sexual assault and his case is ongoing, CBS2 Chicago reported.

In South Carolina, Josephson, 21, had ordered an Uber around 1:30 a.m. after reportedly becoming separated from friends following an evening out at Columbia bars. She mistakenly got into a car driven by 24-year-old Nathaniel David Rowland, according to authorities, who allege he used the childproof locks in his car to imprison Josephson before killing her and dumping her body about 65 miles (105 kilometers) from Columbia. Her funeral was held Saturday in New Jersey, where she grew up.

Rowland is charged with kidnapping and murder.

Then on Wednesday, a 34-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of raping a woman who got into his car after leaving a Seattle bar on Dec. 16. The King County Sheriff's Office said the man led her to believe he was her driver before pulling the car over and raping her. A judge found probable cause to hold the man on investigation of third-degree rape.

And a man from Stamford, Connecticut, was charged last month with raping and kidnapping two women whom he'd picked up at bars in December, the Greenwich Time reported.

"There is no more dangerous place to be than in a locked car traveling with a stranger," said Bryant Greening, a Chicago attorney who specializes in representing ride-hailing drivers and passengers. "You have to be aware of your surroundings and think how you would react if the situation turns sour ... you have to listen to your instincts."

It's not just women who are at risk from fake ride-hailing drivers, he said. Men also have been robbed after getting into the wrong car.

"There is no discrimination by predators," he said.

Greening urged Uber and Lyft to do more to educate customers and to come up with technological solutions. Also, in the wake of Josephson's death, a bill has been introduced in the South Carolina legislature to require Uber and Lyft drivers to have illuminated signs.

Uber said in a written statement that in coming weeks it will launch a social media campaign, buy ads in college newspapers and begin sending push notifications during pick-up to remind passengers about safety steps. It also said it has worked since 2017 with law enforcement and colleges to "educate the public about how to avoid fake rideshare drivers," including by checking a driver's photo and vehicle description against what was sent when a trip is requested.

Lyft said it also provides photos of the driver and information about the vehicle, and some Lyft vehicles have a display on dashboards that changes color to match the passengers' app to help them identify their ride. "We ... are always exploring new, innovative ways to improve the experience for all users, and most importantly, to keep our community safe," the company said.

Orden, the Michigan State University student, said the recent assaults have made her more nervous even though she's already cautious.

"But I feel like in a way that's a good thing," she said. "Now I will take even more precautions."

4 adults, 2 kids shot and wounded at Chicago baby shower

CHICAGO (AP)—Two men who opened fire on a crowd of people gathered for a baby shower, wounding six people, including two children, may have acted in retaliation for an earlier gang conflict, police said Sunday.

Authorities have only "shards of information" about what happened at the family gathering in Chicago because witnesses are not cooperating, a police spokesman said, but investigators hope the serious nature of the children's injuries will prompt someone to talk.

"This is a very tragic incident. You have two young children, an 8-year-old and a 10-year-old, clinging to life," Chicago police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said.

At least a dozen people were gathered outside a home decorated with balloons for the baby shower when two armed men approached on foot and began shooting about 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Guglielmi said.

The gunmen fired multiple rounds and ran away down an alley, he said.

An 8-year-old boy was shot in the chest and back, and a 10-year-old girl was shot in the leg. Both children were in critical but stable condition. Their names were not released.

Also shot were four other people—three men ranging in age from 23 to 48 and a 29-year-old woman. The woman was hospitalized in critical condition, and the two younger men were in stable condition.

The condition of the oldest man was unknown, and Guglielmi said it was unclear whether the woman who was hurt may have been the person who was pregnant.

People rushed inside the house when the shooting began. Children who had been playing in the yard reportedly started piling atop one another as they tried to get through the door.

"We were trying to pick the kids up, get the kids out of the way . they were going to get crushed," Richard Nix, whose grandson was having the shower, told The Chicago Tribune. "It wasn't nothing but kids in front of the house, sitting on the porch. They was just playing, and the shooting went off."

The shooting occurred in the West Englewood neighborhood of Chicago's South Side, and investigators had indications it was in retaliation for a previous incident, the spokesman said.

"It's part of a larger conflict that's going on in that area," Guglielmi said.

Another shooting occurred Sunday morning about three blocks from the home where the gunfire erupted, he said, but it was unclear whether there was any connection.

Authorities have struggled to contain violence in Chicago, the nation's third-largest city. Police said 561 homicides were committed in the city last year, a total that exceeded the number of killings in New York and Los Angeles combined.

ACROSS THE NATION

Whale rescued from stranding 8 years ago dies at SeaWorld

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—A pilot whale that was rescued and found a home at a SeaWorld park after being part of a mass stranding in the Florida Keys eight years ago has died. Officials at SeaWorld Orlando posted on its blog that the whale known as Fredi died Saturday. A spokeswoman said in an email Sunday that Fredi had shown signs of appetite loss and was undergoing an aggressive anti-microbial treatment. Fredi was part of a mass stranding of 23 pilot whales in 2011 near Cudjoe Key, Florida. SeaWorld rescue team members spent two months in the Keys helping with rescue efforts along with other rescue organizations. Fredi was deemed unable to be released back into the wild due to her young age and she found a home at SeaWorld Orlando.

Baltimore's embattled mayor intends to return to work

BALTIMORE (AP)—A spokesman for the embattled mayor of Baltimore says she'll return from her leave of absence as soon as her health allows. Spokesman James Bentley told The Baltimore Sun on Saturday that Catherine Pugh's health is improving. It's unclear when she'll return. It won't be Monday. Pugh abruptly took her leave last Monday to recover from pneumonia. Meanwhile, a scandal involving her sale of children's books to high-profile clients has intensified. Her books were sold to a hospital network she once helped to oversee and to a major health plan that does business with the city. Pugh's book company has received about $800,000. Many purchasers had business interests Pugh could influence as mayor or in her prior position as a state senator. The state prosecutor's office has started an investigation.

Highway Patrol officer killed, 2 other people hurt in crash

LAKE ELSINORE, Calif. (AP)—Authorities say a California Highway Patrol Officer was killed and at least two other people were injured in a crash on a freeway in Lake Elsinore, the Los Angeles Times reports . The CHP and the Riverside County Fire Department say the crash on Interstate 15 occurred about 4:30 p.m. Saturday. As of 8 p.m., all southbound lanes between Nichols Road and Indian Truck Trail remained closed, according to the California Department of Transportation. The CHP on its Facebook page identified the motorcycle officer killed in the crash as Sgt. Steve Licon, the Times reports. Authorities told the Times that it appears that Licon was hit by an "errant driver" while conducting a traffic stop on the shoulder of the freeway. "Our hearts are heavy after the immeasurable loss of a friend, father, husband, and hero," the CHP said in a statement. "Rest easy brother, we have the watch from here."

Asia

Hindu nationalism marches ahead in India's general elections

NEW DELHI (AP)—As she patrols for cow smugglers, Sadhvi Kamal, a Hindu holy woman in a saffron robe, rides in a white SUV with a sticker on the rear window displaying a cow framed by swords and rifles. The words in the sticker's logo say, "The cow is the mother of the world."

Kamal leads a vigilante force of thousands of volunteers, mostly young Hindu men. Such vigilante forces have emerged after several Indian states banned the slaughter of cows, sacred to Hindus, in recent years. Mobs have lynched three dozen Muslims, who traditionally run meat shops and slaughterhouses.

As India heads toward elections beginning this week, taking up arms for "mother cow" is part of a broader campaign to impose ancient Hindu religious values across a multicultural country. As with similar movements across the world, Hindu nationalism, once fringe, has now taken a central place in India's politics.

The movement is led by the party of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who grew up chanting slogans and practicing maneuvers at nationalist training camps. Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party seek to retain power in the elections by promoting Hindutva—a Hindu way of life—instead of secular pluralism. A fresh mandate for Modi could embolden efforts to mold the world's largest democracy of 1.3 billion people into a stringently Hindu nation.

"I think what Modi has successfully done is just to normalize bigotry," said writer and historian Mukul Kesavan. "What we have already seen is a shift of the common sense of the republic way to the right."

Scenes of religious nationalism are now common in India.

In New Delhi and Ayodhya, a city in Uttar Pradesh state, tens of thousands of men in saffron armed with swords and the name of the Hindu Lord Ram painted on their foreheads shouted anti-Muslim epithets. They demanded a temple to Ram at a site where Hindu hardliners tore down a 16th-century mosque in 1992, sparking riots that left about 2,000 people dead. Hindu groups say the mosque was only built after Muslim invaders destroyed a temple dedicated to Ram.

Elsewhere in Uttar Pradesh, the government spent unprecedented sums on the Hindu Kumbh Mela festival that ended last month, with Modi and the chief minister, Yogi Adityanath, himself a Hindu monk, appearing in countless posters. Three months earlier, Adityanath's state government replaced the Muslim name of the host city, Allahabad, with Prayagraj, a Sanskrit word from Hindu religious texts. The name change from Muslim to Hindu is one of many in recent months.

A Modi-appointed committee of scholars is also studying DNA samples to prove that today's Hindus are descendants of India's first inhabitants, and to establish that Hindu scriptures are fact and not myth.

Asked whether the Modi government is forcing Hinduism on its people, Abinav Prasoon, a spokesman for India's information ministry, said "this is a political thing, and we cannot comment on it."

Even the Taj Mahal has not escaped the Hindu political agenda. Despite being a UNESCO world heritage site, the mausoleum built by Muslim Mughal emperor Shah Jahan was not included as a listed attraction by the Uttar Pradesh tourism ministry in 2017. Chief minister Adityanath said foreign dignitaries should be gifted with the Bhagavad Gita, a Hindu religious text, instead of a replica of the monument.

AP

In this Sunday, Nov. 25, 2018 photo, Hindu hardliners, one holding a sword, chant slogans against Muslim communities during a rally demanding a Hindu temple be built on a site in northern India where hardliners in 1992 had attacked and demolished a 16th century mosque in Ayodhya Uttar Pradesh. Riots had left about 2,000 people dead.

Japan spacecraft drops explosive on asteroid to make crater

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's space agency said an explosive dropped Friday from its Hayabusa2 spacecraft successfully blasted the surface of an asteroid for the first time to form a crater and pave the way for the collection of underground samples for possible clues to the origin of the solar system.

Friday's mission was the riskiest for Hayabusa2 because it had to immediately move away so it wouldn't get hit by flying shards from the blast.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA, said Hayabusa2 dropped a small explosive box which sent a copper ball the size of a baseball slamming into the asteroid, and that data confirmed the spacecraft had safely evacuated and remained intact. JAXA later confirmed the impact from images transmitted from a camera left behind by the spacecraft which showed the impactor being released and fine particles later spraying dozens of meters (yards) out from a spot on the asteroid.

"The mission was a success," JAXA project manager Yuichi Tsuda said, beaming. "It is highly likely to have made a crater."

JAXA plans to send Hayabusa2, which was moved to the other side of the asteroid, back to the site after dust and debris settle for observations and to collect samples of material from the new crater that was unexposed to the sun or space rays. Scientists hope the samples will help them understand the history of the solar system, since asteroids are left over material from its formation.

No such samples have been recovered. In a 2005 "deep impact" mission to a comet, NASA observed fragments after blasting the surface but did not collect them.

Last month, JAXA announced that a group of scientists participating in the Hayabusa2 mission had detected hydroxyl-bearing minerals on the asteroid by analyzing near-infrared spectrometer readings by the spacecraft. It said that could help explain where the Earth's water came from. The results were published in the online edition of Science magazine.

"So far, Hayabusa2 has done everything as planned, and we are delighted," mission leader Makoto Yoshikawa said earlier Friday. "But we still have more missions to achieve and it's too early for us to celebrate."

Hayabusa2 successfully touched down on a small level area on the boulder-strewn asteroid in February, when it also collected some surface dust and small debris. The craft is scheduled to leave the asteroid at the end of 2019 and bring the surface fragments and underground samples back to Earth in late 2020.

The asteroid, named Ryugu after an undersea palace in a Japanese folktale, is about 300 million kilometers (180 million miles) from Earth.

ASIAN BRIEFS

UN rights agency condemns combat in Myanmar's Rakhine state

BANGKOK (AP)—The main United Nations human rights agency expressed concern Friday about an upsurge in fighting between Myanmar's army and guerrillas of the Rakhine minority's Arakan Army, especially attacks on civilians by both sides.

A spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights said in Geneva that the agency had "credible reports of the killing of civilians, burning of houses, arbitrary arrests, abductions, indiscriminate fire in civilian areas, and damage to cultural property." The spokeswoman, Ravina Shamdasani, said recent fighting in Rakhine state has led to the displacement of more than 20,000 civilians. Rakhine is best known as the site of a brutal counterinsurgency campaign by the military against the Muslim Rohingya minority which caused more than 700,000 to flee to neighboring Bangladesh. The Arakan Army, which is aligned with Rakhine's Buddhist population, seeks autonomy for the region. Shamdasani said the civilian victims included Buddhist Rakhines and Rohingya Muslims as well as other ethnicities.

South Korea considering sending special envoy to North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea said Thursday it is considering dispatching a special envoy to North Korea as part of its efforts to get stalled nuclear talks back on track. Negotiations over North Korea's nuclear program have remained stalemated since a summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Vietnam last month ended without agreement. South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who facilitated U.S.-North Korean talks last year, is to travel to Washington next week to discuss the nuclear diplomacy with Trump. Moon's national security adviser, Chung Eui-yong, told lawmakers on Thursday that his government is also considering sending a special envoy to North Korea. He didn't elaborate. In March 2018, Moon sent a delegation led by Chung to Pyongyang, North Korea's capital. Chung's delegation met Kim and quoted him as saying he was willing to deal away his advancing nuclear arsenal. Moon met Kim three times later in 2018. Kim's first summit with Trump in Singapore last May ended with a vaguely worded commitment to denuclearization that lacked any roadmap or timing. Moon's government wants reconciliation with North Korea and a negotiated solution of the nuclear dispute.

Pakistan releases first batch of 360 Indian fishermen

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani officials say they will release the first batch of 360 Indian prisoners detained for fishing illegally in the country's territorial waters in the Arabian sea. Prison official Munir Ahmed said Sunday that 100 prisoners will travel by train under police guard to the eastern city of Lahore before being handed over to Indian authorities at the Wahga border crossing Monday. Pakistani and Indian maritime agencies frequently arrest each other's fishermen on charges of illegal fishing. The detainees often languish in prison until such goodwill gestures are shown from either side. Pakistan's foreign ministry has said the remaining Indian prisoners will be released this month. Tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors flared up in February after a suicide bombing in the Indian-controlled part of Kashmir killed more than 40 Indian soldiers.

World

US pulls forces from Libya as fighting approaches capital

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—The United States has temporarily withdrawn some of its forces from Libya due to "security conditions on the ground," a top military official said Sunday as a Libyan commander's forces advanced toward the capital of Tripoli and clashed with rival militias.

A small contingent of American troops has been in Libya in recent years, helping local forces combat Islamic State and al-Qaida militants, as well as protecting diplomatic facilities.

"The security realities on the ground in Libya are growing increasingly complex and unpredictable," said Marine Corps Gen. Thomas Waldhauser, the head of U.S. Africa Command. "Even with an adjustment of the force, we will continue to remain agile in support of existing U.S. strategy."

He did not provide details on the number of U.S. troops that have been withdrawn or how many remain in the country.

AP

A U.S. amphibious hovercraft departs with evacuees from Janzur, west of Tripoli, Libya, Sunday, April 7, 2019.

Footage circulating online showed two apparent U.S. Navy transport craft maneuvering off a beach in Janzour, east of Tripoli, sending up plumes of spray as American forces were ferried from the shore.

India also evacuated a small contingent of peacekeepers. The Indian foreign minister, Sushma Swaraj, said the country's 15 Central Reserve Police Force peacekeepers were evacuated Saturday from Tripoli because the "situation in Libya has suddenly worsened" and fighting has moved into the capital city.

The self-styled Libyan National Army, led by Field Marshal Khalifa Hifter, launched a surprise offensive against the capital last week, a move that could potentially drag the country back into civil war. Libya has been gripped by unrest since the 2011 uprising that overthrew and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi. In recent years, the country has been governed by rival authorities in the east and in Tripoli, in the west, each backed by various armed groups.

Fayez Sarraj, head of government in Tripoli, accused Hifter of "betraying" him.

"We have extended our hands towards peace, but after the aggression that has taken place on the part of forces belonging to Hifter and his declaration of war against our cities and our capital ... he will find nothing but strength and firmness," al-Sarraj said Saturday in televised comments.

Sarraj and Hifter held talks in Abu Dhabi in late February, their first confirmed meeting since November 2018, when they agreed that national elections were necessary, according to the U.N.

Hifter is seeking to capture the capital and seize military control of the whole country before U.N.-sponsored talks due to start next week that were designed to set a time frame for possible elections in the oil-rich country.

The U.N. envoy for Libya, Ghassan Salame, said the U.N. is determined to hold the planned conference.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged Libyan factions to return to negotiations, saying that "there is no military solution to the Libya conflict."

"We have made clear that we oppose the military offensive by Khalifa Haftar's forces and urge the immediate halt to these military operations against the Libyan capital," Pompeo said in a statement.

Fighting was underway Sunday at the international airport, some 24 kilometers (15 miles) from central Tripoli, after Hifter claimed to have seized the area. The airport was destroyed in a previous bout of militia fighting in 2014. Hifter said his forces had launched airstrikes targeting rival militias on the outskirts of Tripoli.

The rival militias, which are affiliated with a U.N.-backed government in Tripoli, said they had also carried out airstrikes, slowing Hifter's advance.

Armed groups behind the U.N.-backed government of national accord, or GNA, have announced an effort to defend Tripoli, vowing to recapture all areas seized by Hifter's forces.

Col. Mohamed Gnounou, a spokesman for GNA forces, said in televised comments Sunday that the counteroffensive, dubbed "Volcano of Anger," was aimed at "purging all Libyan cities of aggressor and illegitimate forces."

The two sides reported that at least 35 people, including civilians, had been killed since Thursday.

The Health Ministry of the Tripoli-based government said in a statement that at least 21 people, including a physician, were killed and at least 27 wounded. Ahmed al-Mesmari, a spokesman for Hifter's forces, said Saturday that 14 troops had been killed since the offensive began.

Mozambique recovers from cyclone, fights threat of cholera

BOPIRA, Mozambique (AP)—A battered notebook lists the people still alive in this village after a devastating cyclone. But sip by sip, a deadly threat remains.

Nearly a month after Cyclone Idai made landfall and unleashed flooding that reached the tops of trees, more than 1,300 people in Bopira have been drinking from the local pond and whatever the muddy waters left behind, including the contents of flooded latrines. The conditions are ripe for deadly disease.

Already a cholera outbreak has been declared in the regional city of Beira, many of whose half-million residents live in slums, and in a few outlying communities where scores of thousands of people now huddle in displacement camps with few toilets and little clean water.

Confirmed cases of the acute diarrheal disease quickly shot from five when it was declared on March 27 into the hundreds and currently is above 3,100, with six deaths.

Now health workers are holding their breath, encouraged by a rapid response in Beira and the restoration of running water there, though it reaches only 60 percent of the city's residents and some must defecate openly in slums.

"I'm quite optimistic. Yes, honestly," Julien Graveleau, a cholera specialist with the United Nations who coordinates the post-cyclone water and sanitation relief effort, told The Associated Press. "Of course, the numbers will be increasing but I believe we're ready for it."

Plenty of challenges lie ahead. "We have seen one today," Graveleau said of his visit to Bopira, where he demonstrated how to use a shipment of water filters. But in a week or so the effects of a huge cholera vaccination campaign should start to be seen, he said.

Nearly 900,000 oral cholera vaccines arrived in Beira last week for a mass vaccination that Doctors Without Borders calls "the most ambitious campaign ever conducted using the one-dose oral cholera vaccine strategy."

The vaccine is normally given in two spaced-out doses but the aid group asserts that one dose is effective in emergencies where it can be difficult to find people for the second. A single dose offers six months of coverage.

Now hundreds of vaccine promoters are said to be active in Beira and elsewhere, messaging with megaphones or handing out the doses in high-traffic areas. Cholera is endemic in Mozambique, a hotspot in Africa along with parts of Congo, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe, and many people are familiar with purification tablets and other precautions.

In possible first, Cuba allows march by animal activists

HAVANA (AP)—More than 400 animal-lovers peacefully marched more than a mile through Havana on Sunday, shouting slogans and waving signs calling for an end to animal cruelty in Cuba.

Short, seemingly simple, the march wrote a small but significant line in the history of modern Cuba. The socialist government had explicitly permitted a public march unassociated with any part of the all-encompassing Communist state, a move that participants and historians call highly unusual and perhaps unprecedented since the first years of the revolution.

"I think it's very intelligent that they approved the demonstration, or, rather, march," said singer Silvio Rodriguez, an establishment figure who has criticized official cultural rigidity and who participated in the event. "It makes us feel optimistic. Now we have to see if the same thing will happen with other causes."

There is no indication Cuba is moving toward unfettered freedom of assembly: The state still clamps down on unapproved political speech with swift and massive police mobilizations, waves of arrests and temporary detentions. So a march by independent civil society groups seeking government action was a remarkable sight in a country where, for nearly 60 years, virtually every aspect of life was part of a single chain of command ending in a supreme leader named Castro.

"It's unprecedented," said Alberto Gonzalez, an organizer of the march and publisher of The Ark, an online Cuban animal-lovers magazine. "This is going to mark a before and an after."

Since shortly after its foundation, the Cuban Communist government has only permitted the existence of what it calls "legitimate civil society"—groups overseen, sponsored and managed by the state and Communist Party. Those groups are fixtures in the mass marches and gatherings organized by the state on public holidays. On the other end of the spectrum are dissident groups, often with close ties to anti-Castro forces in Miami who want to overthrow the socialist government and reinstall a capitalist system with close ties to Washington. Their attempts at street protests and other forms of organizing are almost instantly quashed by state security.

The animal-rights march was monitored by what appeared to at least a couple of dozen plain-clothes state security agents, who watched participants closely but did not interfere. Gonzalez said security officials had asked him to steer the march from the main thoroughfare where it had been authorized to a smaller side street in order to avoid traffic.

It was covered by virtually all major international media based in Havana, but did not appear to be covered by most state-run media, a fact that Rodriguez, the legendary singer, called a lost opportunity.

Focus

25 years after genocide, can Rwanda heal? 6 villages try

By IGNATIUS SSUUNA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MBYO, Rwanda (AP)— Twenty-five years ago, Tasian Nkundiye murdered his neighbor with a machete.

The 43-year-old Hutu and a few other men from his Rwandan village chopped the Tutsi man to pieces — one horrific slaying during a 100-day genocide that killed an estimated 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and the Hutus who tried to protect them. Nkundiye was convicted of the killing and other crimes and spent eight years in prison.

Today he lives near the widow of the man he killed. And somehow they are friends — their children and grandchildren play and share lunch together, their cows graze in the same field.

"I am very grateful to her," Nkundiye, now 68, said of the widow, 58-year-old Laurencia Mukalemera. "Ever since I apologized to her after prison life, confessing to my crimes and asking her for forgiveness, she has accepted me. I even leave my children with her when I am away."

A quarter century after the 1994 genocide that killed 75 percent of the country's ethnic Tutsis, Rwanda has six "reconciliation villages" like Mbyo, where genocide survivors and perpetrators live alongside each other. Convicted killers re-integrate into society by publicly apologizing for their crimes. Survivors profess forgiveness. The villages are showpieces of President Paul Kagame's policy of ethnic reconciliation, although some critics say the communities are forced and the reconciliation is artificial.

About 3,000 victims and perpetrators live in the villages established by Prison Fellowship Rwanda, a Christian organization, and funded by the U.S. government, the United Nations and other donors to promote healing in Rwanda from the gaping wounds left by the genocide. Those in the villages also get help with housing and school fees.

Rwanda's genocide was ignited on April 6, 1994, when a plane carrying President Juvénal Habyarimana was shot down and crashed in the capital, Kigali, killing the leader, who like most Rwandans was an ethnic Hutu. Rwanda's Tutsi minority was blamed for the crash, igniting revenge attacks targeting Tutsis across the country of 12 million people.

Jannette Mukabyagaju remembers the words of her father when the family heard the news that the president's plane had been shot down.

"We are now finished," he said.

"That is the last time I saw my father. He died with the rest of the family members the following days," Mukabyagaju, a Tutsi survivor, who is now 42, told The Associated Press. In the family of eight children, only Mukabyagaju, one sister and a brother survived.

Shrill broadcasts in the government media incited the killings, portraying Tutsis as dangerous, bent on dominating Hutus. During the genocide, political and military leaders also encouraged rape to further destroy the Tutsi ethnic group, which today makes up just 14 percent of the population.

Mukabyagaju's family lived in Muhanga, a village near a military barracks attached to the president's office in the capital, Kigali.

"The presidential guards from the military zone descended on the village, accusing all Tutsis, including children, of being behind the death of their president," she recalls.

"It was useless to tell militiamen the children didn't have any idea about the president's death," said Mukabyagaju, who was 17 at the time. "But as you know, during the genocide, all sense had gone."

Disguising herself, Mukabyagaju managed to escape to a church in the nearby village of Kabgayi that gave refuge to thousands seeking protection. "The Tutsis working at the church helped us with food, but soon they, too, were killed by the militia," she said.

For two months she hid in and around the church until the Rwanda Patriotic Front, a rebel group headed by Kagame, seized power, forcing out the Hutu extremists and bringing an end to the genocide.

Mukabyagaju said she asks herself why she survived. "I believe it was God's mercy that I didn't die," she said. "I have decided to let anger go and forgive all people, including those who killed my family."

Today Mukabyagaju lives in Mbyo, where 54 families of genocide survivors and perpetrators live side by side among the village's green fields. Rwanda's dark past is contradicted by the peals of laughter of children descended from both sides of the killing, playing and going to school together.

"We are grateful by the fact that Rwandans are united today," said Frederick Kazigwemu, another convict released after serving nine years in prison for genocide crimes, including murdering a neighboring family.

"Seeking forgiveness from a family where you killed relatives is an act of courage. But after turning your heart to God, this was possible," said Kazigwemu, who today is Mbyo's village leader.

Not all Rwandans think reconciliation has succeeded. Sam Nshimirimana, a Rwandan genocide expert and survivor, said forgiveness would be more meaningful if it were initiated by the survivors and perpetrators themselves and not promoted by the government or charitable organizations.

"The government tells perpetrators that once they apologize to the victims, they will be released" from prison, he told the AP. "Obviously, they apologize in order to be released. This is an artificial apology."

At the same time, "many survivors forgive because they are poor and need shelters or school fees," Nshimirimana said.

Ethnic reconciliation is a cornerstone of the rule of Kagame, Rwanda's de facto leader since the genocide ended in 1994 and the country's president since 2000, who is credited with bringing Rwanda stability, economic growth, improved health and education. Kagame also has pushed to have more women in political office and 64% of the representatives in Rwanda's parliament are women, the highest percentage of any country in the world.

In the early 2000s, Kagame's government enacted the laws that allowed those convicted of genocide crimes to walk out of prison if they apologized to survivors and sought their forgiveness. Both Nkundiye and Kizigwemu were released from prison under this arrangement.

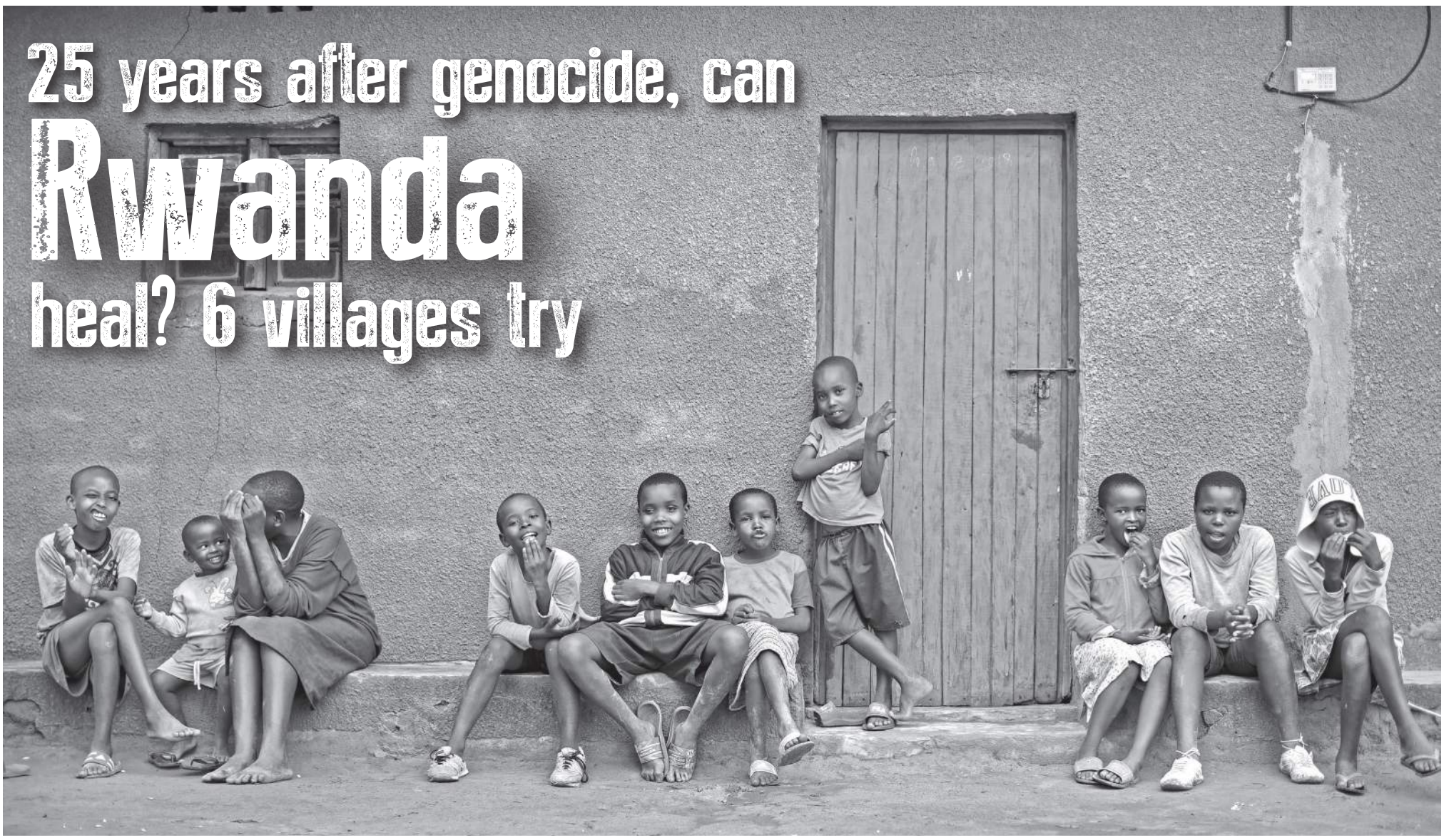
However, Kagame's critics charge that he is intolerant of criticism and his government is repressive, jailing opposition leaders. Some opponents say that Rwanda's reconciliation is forced.

In Mbyo, however, it is hard to argue that the community is artificial.

"What we did was horrible," said Nkundiye, who remains haunted by memories of the screams of helpless women and children and the sight of Tutsi men throwing themselves into rivers to drown rather than be chopped to death by machetes.

As for Mukalemera, the widow of the man he killed, "I didn't know that it was Nkundiye who killed my husband. He came and told me he did it and showed me where my husband's body was buried. When he confessed and apologized, I forgave him."

She hugged Ndundiye in greeting as they met to discuss the upcoming planting season. "I found I could not live with anger forever," she said.



AP

In this photo taken Thursday, April 4, 2019, the children of genocide survivors and perpetrators play together in the reconciliation village of Mbyo, near Nyamata, in Rwanda. Twenty-five years after the genocide the country has six "reconciliation villages" where convicted perpetrators who have been released from prison after publicly apologizing for their crimes live side by side with genocide survivors who have professed forgiveness.

Overdrive

Ford's 2020 Escape gets big redesign — and biggest surprise is in back seat

By PHOEBE WALL HOWARD
DETROIT FREE PRESS

The completely redesigned 2020 Ford Escape, a popular compact SUV and the company's No. 2 best-selling vehicle after the Ford F-Series pickup, debuted this week.

One key change? A second row that offers more leg room than a full-size Chevy Suburban, noted Hau Thai-Tang, Ford executive vice president of product development and purchasing.

The 2020 Ford Escape, which goes on sale in the fall, is designed to compete primarily with the Honda CR-V and Toyota RAV4.

This is the Escape's first complete redesign since the 2013 model year.

Ford calls the new version lighter, sleeker and sportier.

Sales of compact sport utility non-premium vehicles surged from 1.8 million in 2012 to 3.5 million in 2018. The biggest spike occurred between 2017 and 2018.

Consumers said they wanted more leg, hip and shoulder room for passengers than in previous designs. So the company delivered.

During a media preview at Greenfield Village, the Free Press asked athletes on-site for the celebration to get into the Escape. Its second row comfortably held three basketball players from the University of Michigan-Dearborn: Mafiaion Joyner, 22, of Battle Creek at 6-foot-4-inches; Ashton Curd, 26, of Detroit at 5-foot-10 inches; and Xavier Crofford, 23, of Detroit at 6-foot-4.

"We can all fit back here. We have enough space to operate," Crofford said, moving freely. He drives an Explorer but slid into the Escape with ease. "We feel comfortable."

Leg room grows from 37.3 inches in the 2019 model to 40.7 inches in the standard 2020 model. (The Suburban's second row legroom is 39.7.) Hybrid model legroom is slightly less at 38.9 inches.

TNS

Completely redesigned new 2020 Escape best offers four new propulsion choices – including two all-new hybrids; standard hybrid targets best-in-class EPA-estimated range of more than 550 miles; plug-in hybrid targets a best-in-class EPA-estimated pure-electric range of 30+ miles.

The second row also slides back, said Jennifer Comfort, Escape architecture supervisor. "This was identified as a key issue for outgoing customers. We read a lot of customer satisfaction data and made huge improvements."

Tall drivers wanted more room behind the steering wheel, and that changed, too.

In the fall, consumers will see the traditional internal combustion engine Escape and a hybrid arrive in showrooms. In spring 2020, plug-in hybrids that target a pure-electric range of more than 30 miles will arrive.

A way to 'decompress'

This Ford Escape is designed for buyers "looking for simplicity in a very hectic world," said Jim Hughes, chief program engineer at Ford. "They want to live their lives without constraints. This vehicle must stand up to the rigors of an urban lifestyle and be ready for hiking, biking and going to the beach."

He told of a woman he met doing consumer research who kept two beach chairs in her vehicle at all times, so on nice evenings she could take a longer route home from work and stop at the beach "to decompress."

Driving Tips: Getting to the source of the stink in your car

By MARCO BUSCAGLIA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

TNS

Smelly car? Baking soda is your friend.

Those burgers and fries you've dined on during post-work traffic may be long gone, but the compounded odor of dozens of in-car meals lives on. Now, add a couple of sweaty kids after soccer practice and a pile of towels from a day at the beach last summer and you've got yourself of a potpourri of stink.

If you're using some of your spring-cleaning energy to wash your car, don't forget to attack some of the places that are storing smells.

Here's how you can attack the foul aroma that's the antithesis of "new car smell."

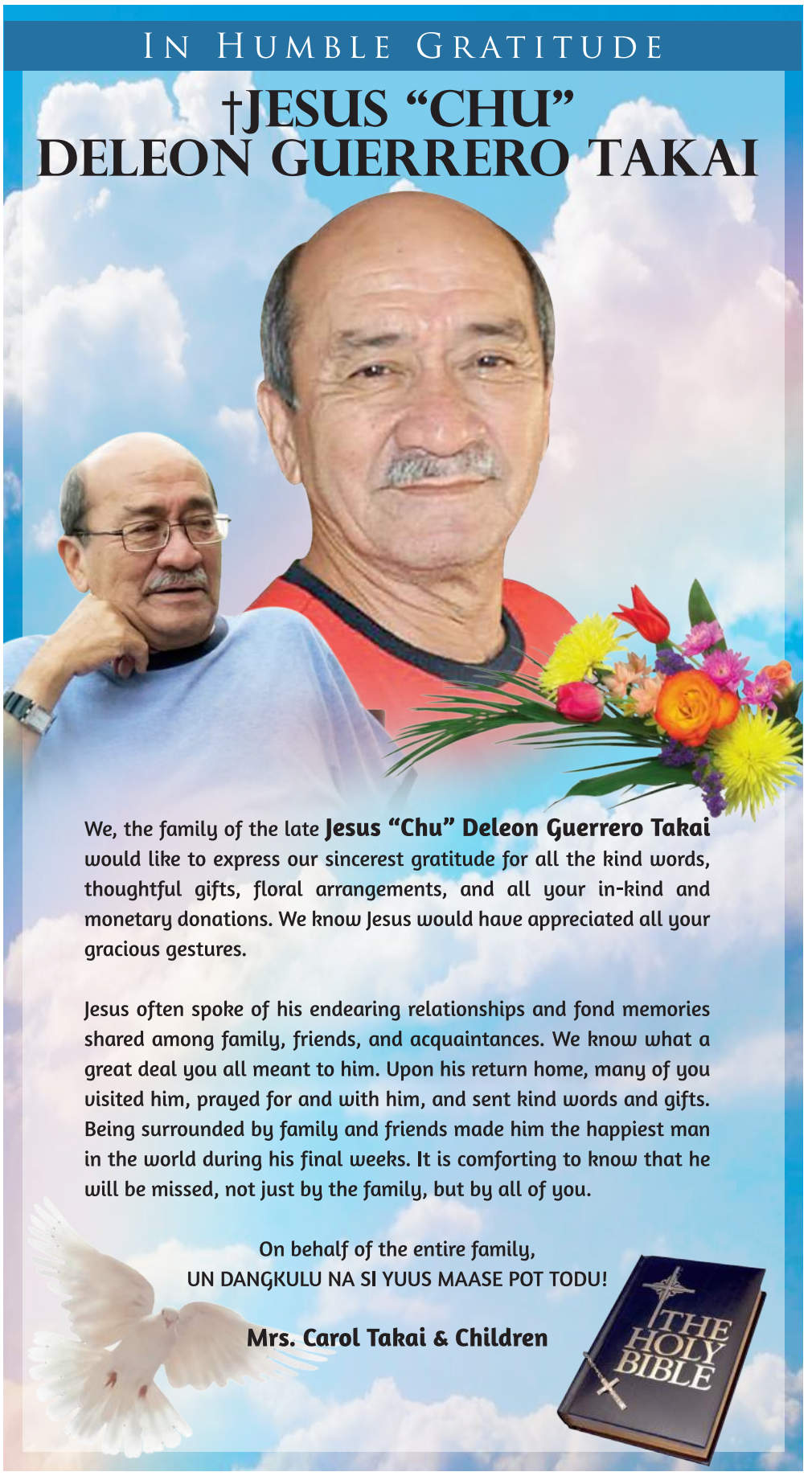
■ Car mats and carpet: Most car owners take their floor mats out on occasion and vacuum them. Some of you may give them a periodic soaking with a hose but what about the carpet that's under the mats? Time to address all floor surfaces. After an initial vacuuming, sprinkle an even layer of baking soda on the mats and the carpet. Leave it overnight so that the well-known refrigerator ally can work its magic in your car. Vacuum it up — along with many of the now soaked-in odors — the next day.

—Seats and upholstery: While vacuuming the upholstery may help remove cookie crumbs and dog hair, it won't do much good when it comes to removing odors. You can use the baking soda method on your seats as well and follow up with an interior wash. If you purchase an interior cleaning solution, make sure it's safe for the upholstery, especially if the seats are covered in cloth. Foaming sprays that help lift stains and odors from seats can be especially effective.

■ The trunk: Your trunk is probably your go-to option for things that you'd prefer to keep out of your nose's reach. Unfortunately, your trunk is still connected to the rest of your car. Those smells that once existed in the trunk are only going to spread so it's best to remove everything, vacuum it out and, if necessary, try the baking soda and interior wash approach.

—Other potential offenders: To remove all odors, you'll need to clean out some of the forgotten spaces of your car, like between the seats and windows. You should also address the obvious spots, like cup holders, seat pockets and seat belts. It's likely you've been sweating on your seat belts every day, so they, too, are worthy of a spring cleaning.

■ Air filter: Finally, you should change your air filter regularly. The filter traps dust, mold, pollen and other contaminants, and prevents them from entering the car, which can cause musty odors and other smells. As with any filter, it needs to be changed on a regular basis, roughly every year.


IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE
†JESUS "CHU"
DELEON GUERRERO TAKAI
We, the family of the late Jesus "Chu" Deleon Guerrero Takai would like to express our sincerest gratitude for all the kind words, thoughtful gifts, floral arrangements, and all your in-kind and monetary donations. We know Jesus would have appreciated all your gracious gestures.
Jesus often spoke of his endearing relationships and fond memories shared among family, friends, and acquaintances. We know what a great deal you all meant to him. Upon his return home, many of you visited him, prayed for and with him, and sent kind words and gifts. Being surrounded by family and friends made him the happiest man in the world during his final weeks. It is comforting to know that he will be missed, not just by the family, but by all of you.
On behalf of the entire family,
UN DANGKULU NA SI YUUS MAASE POT TODU!
Mrs. Carol Takai & Children
THE HOLY BIBLE

Life & Style

Keith Urban, Kacey Musgraves, Dan + Shay win at ACM Awards

AP

Keith Urban poses in the press room with the award for entertainer of the year at the 54th annual Academy of Country Music Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on Sunday, April 7, 2019, in Las Vegas.

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

Grammy-winning duo Dan + Shay solidified themselves as the hottest group in country music with multiple wins at the Academy of Country Music Awards, where Keith Urban was named entertainer of the year and Kacey Musgraves won three honors.

Urban won the top prize Sunday with his ninth nomination for the award, besting Chris Stapleton, Luke Bryan, Kenny Chesney and Jason Aldean, who held the title the last three years.

"Baby girl, I love you so much," Urban said, looking to his actress-wife, Nicole Kidman. "To the fans out there, you are amazing. You have no idea what you mean to me."

Urban also won entertainer of the year at the Country Music Association Awards in November—his first time winning the prize since 2005.

No women were nominated for the top ACM honor. Musgraves was the sole women up for album of the year.

She won twice when "Golden Hour" picked up top album—as an artist and co-producer of the project. She was also named female artist of the year.

Musgraves said the award "goes out to anyone woman, girl, or anybody really" who has been told "her perspective or style is too different."

"Just stay at it. It'll work out," said Musgraves, who won four Grammys earlier this year, including album of the year and best country album.

Other categories didn't feature many female nominees: Bebe Rexha was the only woman competing for song of the year with "Meant to Be," while Maddie & Tae was the sole female act up for duo of the year.

But both honors, along with single of the year, went to Dan + Shay.

"I think somebody got the cards mixed up tonight," Dan Smyers said onstage at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. "This is all incredible. We are all winners tonight."

Smyers technically won five honors—picking up double wins in song of the year as artist and co-writer (shared with Jordan Reynolds and Nicolle Galyon) and single of the year as artist and co-producer (shared with Scott Hendricks). Shay Mooney, who won three awards for his role in the duo, didn't write or produce the song.

Even Thomas Rhett jokingly dedicated his male artist of the year trophy to Dan + Shay.

"I am going to give this to Dan + Shay so they can go home with four," he said.

Rhett also gave a shoutout to his wife who sat in the audience: "You are smoking hot tonight."

Rhett performed Sunday, while Dan + Shay hit the stage to sing "Keeping Score" alongside Kelly Clarkson, hitting impressive high notes. Chris Stapleton's performance was also a highlight. The singer-songwriter, who often performs with his wife, Morgane Stapleton, sang onstage as she held her hand over her stomach (she is pregnant).

R. Kelly makes brief appearance

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)—R&B singer R. Kelly made a paid appearance early Sunday at a club in Illinois' capital city, but the fans who each shelled out $50 to $100 for tickets got only a 28-second performance, followed by a half-hour meet-and-greet.

Hours before his appearance at the Dirty South Lounge in Springfield, Kelly posted a video on Instagram asking the media to "take it easy" on him because "this is how I got to get paid now, for right now."

Kelly, 52, was charged in February with 10 counts of aggravated sexual abuse that accused him of assaulting four women during a roughly 10-year period starting in the late 1990s. Three of the accusers were underage at the time. He has pleaded not guilty and denied any wrongdoing.

Since his arrest, the cash-strapped singer has struggled to get work in the U.S., Kelly's lawyer Steve Greenberg wrote in a motion last month seeking permission for Kelly to perform in Dubai and meet with members of the sheikhdom's royal family.

Kelly has been scrambling to pay child support, legal fees and everyday expenses because of the cancellation of Illinois concerts and a record contract, as well as the removal of his songs from streaming services, he wrote.

Kelly's lawyers later put the motion on hold. Dubai's government denied that Kelly had any concerts planned there and the claims that he would meet with members of the royal family.

About 100 people showed up for Kelly's appearance at the Springfield club, which has a 450-person capacity, TV stations WICS and WRSP reported. There was a $100 entrance fee, which was lowered to $50 once Kelly arrived at 1:30 a.m.

Kelly thanked supporters, sang a line from one of his songs for 28 seconds and spent about 35 minutes taking selfies, dancing and conversing with fans. The club closed at 3 a.m.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†Gaudelia Castro Magofna Pua

Lovingly known as Elang

Was born on September 30, 1940 and went to her new home to meet our Lord on April 3, 2019.

In her new life, †Gaudelia M. Pua will be reunited with her:
Husband: †Jesus S. Pua
Daughter: †Elphidia Georgia M. Pua
Father: †George F. Magofna
Mother: †Maria C. Magofna
Brothers: †Pedro C. Magofna
†Ramon C. Magofna
Father-in-law: †Juan Pua
Mother-in-law: †Juana S. Pua

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her
Sister: Maria Esther M. Aldan
Children: **Rudolfo M. Pua**/Irene C. Pua (Sheldeen Maria P. Yiftheg/Thomas Jose I. Yiftheg [Ehphirene, Michael Rudolfo, Therese Jacinta, Joseph Ramon Sheldon, and Benedict Peter Paul], Sharmaine Neliga Lulugumei C. Pua, Shaneese Trindelia C. Pua, Shenille Haruno C. Pua, Shizelle Rudene C. Pua, Maria Ramona C. Pua and Rudolfo C. Pua Jr.
Loran M. Pua (Melina R. Salas/Manning M. Salas [Zyrah Tehani Salas]
Frederico M. Pua/Ning L. Pua (Angelia L. Pua)
Pauline P. Arurang/Francisco K. Arurang (Hank Lugufel P. Arurang Jr., Conseco John P. Arurang and Chicko Hensus P. Arurang/Jeromalyn W. Santos
Remedio Margarita M. Pua
Norbert M. Pua/Gayle N. Pua (Louvicki Francile N. Camacho, Jesus Marino N. Pua, Jovina Cecilia N. Pua, Levonnie Delia N. Pua
Juan George M. Pua/Silva Frances C. Celis (Elphidia Deliana C. Pua/Enrique S. Cepeda), Juan George M. Pua II, Hayashi Daniel C. Pua

She will also be greatly missed by her numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

Daily mass of intention is offered at 6:00 p.m., followed by the rosary at 7:00 pm at Santa Remedios Church.

On Thursday, April 11, 2019, Gaudelia M. Pua will be escorted from the CHCC Morgue to Santa Remedios Church at 7:30 a.m. Responso services and rosary will commence upon arrival of remains, last respects and public viewing will be held right after.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. with interment services to follow immediately at Tanapag Cemetery where she will be laid to peaceful rest.

Your thoughts and prayers are sincerely appreciated.

Thank you yan Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen I famagu'on Gaudelia M. Pua

‘Come From Away,’ ‘The Inheritance’ score at Olivier Awards

LONDON (AP)—“The Inheritance”, an epic drama about gay lives in New York, and musicals “Come From Away” and “Company” were the big winners at British theater’s Olivier Awards on Sunday, receiving four trophies apiece.

“Come From Away,” inspired by a small Canadian town that sheltered thousands of stranded airline passengers after the 9/11 attacks, was named best new musical at Britain’s equivalent of Broadway’s Tony Awards. The play also took trophies for sound, outstanding achievement in music and choreography.

Choreographer Kelly Devine dedicated the award in her category to the people of Gander, Newfoundland who in real life “effortlessly showed the world how easy it is to be kind.”

The award for best musical revival went to a production of Stephen Sondheim’s “Company” that gender-swapped the lead role of a commitment-shy New York singleton and turned the usually male Bobby character into Bobbie.

Director Marianne Elliott attributed the show’s success partly to “a wind of change blowing in the industry, where celebrating female stories is not only possible, but absolutely vital.”

“Company” also delivered a supporting actress prize to Broadway diva Patti LuPone and a supporting actor trophy to Jonathan Bailey. It took another award for set-design.

“The Inheritance,” Matthew Lopez’s drama about young gay men living in New York a generation after the AIDS crisis was declared best new play.

Kyle Soller with the Best Actor award and Patsy Ferran with the Best Actress award, at the Olivier Awards ceremony in London, Sunday April 7, 2019. AP

Lopez said he was “overwhelmed and overjoyed” by the trans-Atlantic success of his seven-hour epic, which had its world premiere at London’s Young Vic Theatre.

“We’ve seen a lot of Brits come over and take home Tonys,” Lopez said backstage, clutching a statuette topped with a bust of the late actor for whom the award is named, Laurence Olivier. “It’s only fair.”

Lopez said he was hopeful the show would get a Broadway run now that London has shown the play, mined from his own experience, resonates with audiences.

“You could have blown me over with a feather,” he said of the reaction his play got from theatergoers in Britain’s capital. “Even some of the New York jokes, they got.”

“The Inheritance” also took prizes for lighting and for Stephen Daldry’s direction, while star Kyle Soller beat rivals who included Ian McKellen to be garlanded best actor in a play.

Soller, an American based in London, dedicated his award to “those who continue to fight in a world where you can still be stoned to death for loving who you love.”

Islamic Laws making gay sex and adultery punishable by death by stoning took effect Wednesday in the southeast Asian nation of Brunei. The country’s sultan owns properties around the world. includes London’s Dorchester Hotel.

Spanish-British actress Patsy Ferran was crowned best actress in a play as a woman consumed by love in Tennessee Williams’ smoldering “Summer and Smoke.” The competition was a talented field that included Gillian Anderson for “All About Eve” and Sophie Okonedo for “Antony and Cleopatra”

“Summer and Smoke” also took the prize for best revival.

Sharon D. Clarke was named best actress in a musical for her powerful performance as the maid to a Southern U.S. family in the 1960s in Tony Kushner’s “Caroline, or Change.”

Best actor in a musical went to Kobna Holdbrook-Smith for playing a charismatic, abusive Ike Turner in “Tina - The Tina Turner Musical.”

Founded in 1976, the Olivier Awards honor achievements in London theater, musicals, dance and opera. Winners in most categories are chosen by a panel of stage professionals and theatergoers.

Sally Field, Kelsey Grammer, Tom Hiddleston, David Suchet and Gloria Estefan were among the stars walking the red carpet in a drizzle before the ceremony at the Royal Albert Hall.

The show saluted long-running musicals “The Lion King” and “Mamma Mia,” both celebrating 20 years of playing in London’s West End.

Matthew Bourne—the choreographer behind an iconic all-male production of “Swan Lake”—received a lifetime achievement honor, presented by Prince Charles’ wife, Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall.

‘Shazam!’ debuts with $53.5M, handing DC Comics another win

NEW YORK (AP)—Seven films in, the DC Extended Universe is finally flying with some wind behind its back. The well-reviewed, relatively modestly budgeted “Shazam!” debuted with $53.5 million in ticket sales over the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday, handing DC its latest critical and box-office success.

Though one of the oldest characters in DC’s superhero stable, “Shazam!” doesn’t boast the name-recognition of Batman or Superman. But by scaling back to a $100 million budget and going for the lighter, comic tone, “Shazam!” steadily built up its word of mouth with stellar reviews. Warner Bros. also showed the film nationwide two weeks before opening, where it made $3 million in advance screenings.

“Shazam!” came out well ahead of the weekend’s other top draw, “Pet Sematary.” Paramount Pictures’ remake of the original 1989 Stephen King adaptation opened in a distant second with $25 million. It’s a solid start for “Pet Sematary,” though far from the haul that the last big-screen adaptation of King’s conjured up: “It” opened with $123.4 million in 2017.

1. “**Shazam!**” $53.4 million ($102 million international).
2. “**Pet Sematary**,” $25 million ($17.3 million international).
3. “**Dumbo**,” $18.2 million ($39.6 million international).
4. “**Us**,” $13.8 million ($10.3 million international).
5. “**Captain Marvel**,” $12.7 million ($14.1 million international).
6. “**The Best of Enemies**,” $4.5 million.
7. “**Five Feet Apart**,” $3.7 million ($4.1 million international).
8. “**Unplanned**,” $3.2 million.
9. “**Wonder Park**,” $2 million ($3.3 million international).
10. “**How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World**,” $2 million.

Last week’s top film, “Dumbo,” slid steeply in its second week. Landing in third, the Disney live-action remake dropped 60% with $18.2 million.

Pitched as ”‘Big’ meets Superman,”’ “Shazam!” stars Asher Angel as Billy Batson, a teenage foster kid who transforms into an adult superhero (played by Zachary Levi).

Jeff Goldstein, distribution chief at Warner Bros., said the studio originally forecast a $40 million opening. “That was the right number for us,” Goldstein said. “That’s what we needed to make money on it.”

But expectations grew based on reviews (91% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and audience reaction (an “A″ Cinemascore). The PG-13-rated film attracted an especially young crowd; 45% were under 25.

The result further validated DC’s pivot following the disappointments of Zack Snyder’s “Batman v Superman” and David Ayer’s “Suicide Squad.” Warner Bros. has since steered its comic book adaptions in a different direction, leaning more on standalone entries less predicated on the overall “universe” and more fluctuating in tone. Following “Wonder Woman” and “Aquaman,” ″Shazam!” makes it three in a row for DC superhero standalones.

This image released by Warner Bros. shows Zachary Levi, left, and Jack Dylan Grazer in a scene from “Shazam!” AP

Earlier in the week, Warner Bros. also teased the DC release “Joker,” with Joaquin Phoenix, at CinemaCon. An even smaller-budgeted origin story with a similarly unique, albeit much darker, tone; it was one of the most talked-about movies at the Las Vegas event.

″‘Wonder Woman’ was really the start of changing the ship,” Goldstein said. “When you look at each of these properties, they’re all very different. Their approach is different. Their tone is different. But here’s the commonality: All good movies, all well done. I think that’s what you’ll see out of DC is very specific approaches for that property.”

Overseas, “Shazam!” grossed $102 million in 79 markets, including $30.9 million in China.

Netflix teases upcoming Beyonce special 'Homecoming'

NEW YORK (AP)—It took just one word for Netflix to send Beyonce fans into a full-on freak out.

The streaming giant on Sunday posted on its social media channels a yellow image with the word "Homecoming" across it. The only other information was a date: April 17.

That's when Netflix is expected to premiere a Beyonce special that may feature her performances at last year's Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival. Though Netflix declined to share any more information, the font and color and of the announcement was the same as Beyonce's was for her Coachella appearance.

Beyonce also last year launched a scholarship program dubbed the Homecoming Scholars Award Program.

The singer is known for debuting new work shrouded in secrecy. No details were announced before her 2016 HBO special "Lemonade."

AP

In this Feb. 19, 2017. file photo, Beyonce sits at court side during the second half of the NBA All-Star basketball game in New Orleans.

Wrestler Bret Hart tackled during WWE Hall of Fame speech

NEW YORK (AP)—Wrestler Bret "The Hitman" Hart was tackled by a spectator Saturday while he was giving a speech during the WWE Hall of Fame ceremony at Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

The attacker was promptly subdued by several people, including other wrestlers, who came to Hart's defense. Hart, 61, is OK.

The person ran toward the ring from the crowd, spectator Alan Fisher told The Associated Press.

"I couldn't believe that the security had missed him in the first place and the next thing you know there was Shane McMahon and Travis Brown on top of him the crowd was going crazy booing," Fisher said. "Everyone was cheering when one of the wrestlers punched him."

Several shocked onlookers posted footage of the tackle online. The induction event resumed, with Hart continuing his speech, after the fan was taken into custody.

"He should have never attacked Bret Hart especially at such a special moment in his life," Fisher said.

New York City Police arrested 26-year-old Zachary Madsen, of Lincoln, Nebraska. He faces assault and criminal trespass charges. An email to the district attorney seeking someone who could comment on Madsen's behalf wasn't immediately answered.

Her Majesty's secret service: Prince William studies spies

LONDON (AP)—Prince William, spy extraordinaire?

Kensington Palace officials have revealed that William has spent three weeks working with Britain's secret services to understand how the country's security and intelligence services work. He spent time shadowing the foreign intelligence service MI6, worked with the domestic security service MI5, and finally with GCHQ, the government's secret listening service.

Officials said the prince completed his final day of his work placement at GCHQ on Saturday.

In a statement, William said it was a "humbling" experience working with "people from everyday backgrounds" who cannot tell their family and friends about their secret work and all the stresses they face.

The head of counter-terrorism at GCHQ, who remained anonymous, said the prince "worked exceptionally hard to embed himself in the team."

AP

Britain's Prince William and David Beckham during the global premiere of Netflix's "Our Planet" at the Natural History Museum in London, Thursday April 4, 2019.

UK soap includes black family for 1st time in 60 years

LONDON (AP)—The long-running British TV soap "Coronation Street" is welcoming its first black family in its 59-year history.

The soap opera is set to introduce the Baileys, a family with two sons. It will explore themes of racism and homophobia in sport, with a story line featuring one of the sons, a soccer player, coming out as gay.

The show has charted the goings-on in the fictional northern England community of Weatherfield since 1960. It has cast individual black characters but not brought in a black family together before.

Producer Iain MacLeod said Saturday he didn't really know why it has taken so long, but it "did feel sort of overdue we did this and represented modern Manchester a bit more accurately."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Conceptual artist Charles Gaines wins Edward MacDowell Medal

NEW YORK (AP)—Conceptual artist Charles Gaines is this year's winner of the Edward MacDowell Medal, an honor previously given to Robert Frost and Toni Morrison among others. On Sunday, the MacDowell artist colony praised Gaines as a "renowned and celebrated" artist and as an educator who has helped "generations of students." MacDowell Colony chairman Michael Chabon, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author, will present Gaines his medal at an August 11 ceremony in Peterborough, New Hampshire, the colony's longtime home. Gaines is a Charleston, South Carolina, native whose work has been exhibited everywhere from the Museum of Modern Art to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. He teaches at the CalArts School of Art. Edward MacDowell and his wife, Marian MacDowell, founded the MacDowell Colony in 1907. The medal was established in 1960.

CNN anchor Don Lemon engaged to real estate agent Tim Malone

NEW YORK (AP)—CNN anchor Don Lemon has announced his engagement to New York real estate agent Tim Malone. Lemon, who has two dogs with Malone, posted on Instagram photos of customized canine tags that read: "DADDY WILL YOU MARRY PAPA?" on Saturday. Referring to Malone, the 53-year-old Lemon wrote in the caption: "He gave me a present on his birthday. How could I say no?" Malone confirmed the engagement on his Instagram story, posting: "He said YES!" Other photos show Lemon and Malone together with friends for Malone's birthday celebration at a New York restaurant Friday. Page Six and People report the two began dating in 2016. They shared an on-air kiss during CNN's New Year's Eve coverage last year. Lemon anchors CNN's weeknight news show.

Texts rock the foundation of relationsop built on trust

DEAR ABBY: I have been seeing a woman for a year, and everything seemed pretty sweet. She told me when we met that trust is important to her as she has had issues in past relationships, including with her ex-husband, who was seeing an ex without disclosing it to her.

This week I saw a series of texts pop up on her phone from someone I have never heard her mention. When I asked about it, she said they were from an "old friend." I found it troubling and asked her more about it. She then mentioned she had been in a romantic relationship with him many years ago. She also disclosed that the text exchange was started because she told him (via text) that she had dreamed about him the night before.

She assured me her dream was not romantic or of a sexual nature, and her intent in reaching out wasn't romantic. Despite this, my suspicion meter has gone through the roof, and I'm having a hard time trusting her story. I find this especially baffling given her history. Am I overreacting?

LESS TRUSTFUL NOW

DEAR LESS TRUSTFUL: If everything has been going well in your relationship with this woman for a year, why are you looking at text messages that pop up on her phone? Although not all people would text an ex about his/her appearance in a dream, she can text whomever she wishes, and she shouldn't have to account to you for it.

The two of you need to have a serious conversation about the parameters of your relationship. The problem may be your insecurity, and if you are going to have a successful outcome with anyone, you had better learn to control it.

DEAR ABBY: My stepfather, "Ron," and my mother finalized their divorce a month ago. He has been part of my life for 19 years, since I was 10. He was a grandfather to my two boys, and because he adopted me when I was 17, I took his last name.

My problem is that two years ago, when Ron left Mom, he cut off all contact with me and my boys. No calls, texts, messages. Nothing! I am still coming to terms with all of it, and it's hard to explain to my 7-year-old where his grandfather is.

Ron was a father to me after my biological father passed away. It's painful to think that he may not have loved me or my boys like I thought he did.

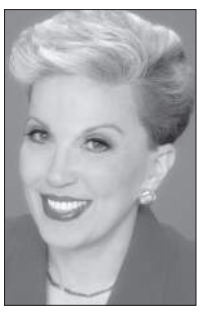
How can a father/grandfather do that so easily? What's worse is his children (my step-siblings) have also cut us off. I have no idea why.

My husband thinks I should contact him, but I don't think I should have to beg someone to be in my life, especially if it's a parent/child situation. What are your thoughts? Any guidance would be appreciated.

LEFT IN THE DARK IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

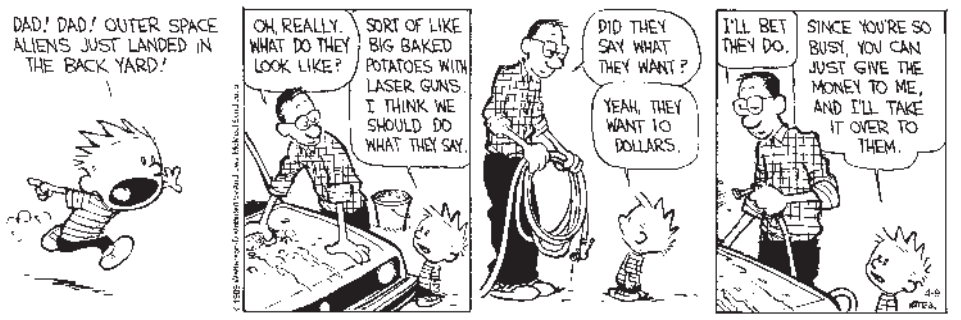
DEAR LEFT: Ron may think that because he and your mother are no longer married, your loyalties lie with her and you don't want him in your life. I agree with your husband. Reach out to him and your step-siblings. Tell them you and your children love them and still want them to be part of your lives. They may need the reassurance. And if they still prefer to have no contact, you will know you did everything possible to keep the relationships intact.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DAD! DAD! OUTER SPACE ALIENS JUST LANDED IN THE BACK YARD!
OH, REALLY. WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?
SORT OF LIKE BIG BAKED POTATOES WITH LASER GUNS. I THINK WE SHOULD DO WHAT THEY SAY.
DID THEY SAY WHAT THEY WANT?
YEAH, THEY WANT 10 DOLLARS.
I'LL BET THEY DO.
SINCE YOU'RE SO BUSY, YOU CAN JUST GIVE THE MONEY TO ME, AND I'LL TAKE IT OVER TO THEM.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Mimics
5 Satchel
8 Blue hue
12 Tibetan monk
13 Crew tool
14 Galoots
15 Spring flower
17 Marathon fraction
18 Vagrant
19 Near-sighted
21 Pie-in-the-face sound
24 Blueprint
25 San — Obispo, CA
26 Lose weight
30 Web address
31 April forecasts
32 Pi follower
33 Pained expressions
35 Egyptian deity
36 911 responders
37 Garden statuette
38 Shrimp recipe
41 Gloomy guy
42 Horseback game
43 Record holder?
48 Sharif of "Funny Girl"
49 Melody
50 Long tale
51 Theater award
52 Texter's chuckle
53 Yon folks

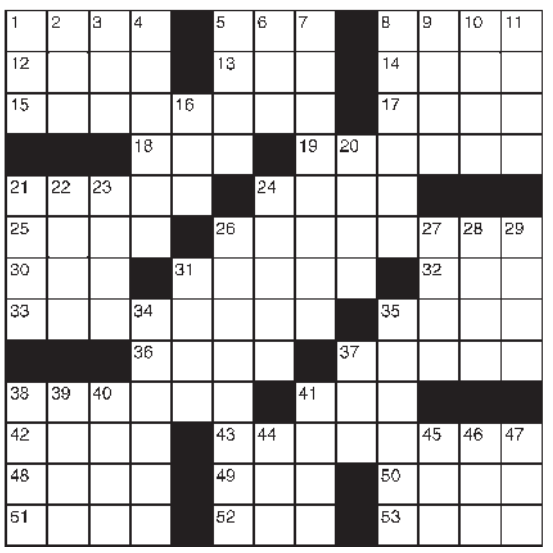
DOWN

1 Jungfrau, for one
2 Standard
3 Brit. record label
4 Brazilian dances
5 Prosperous period
6 Small batteries
7 Glitch makers
8 Candy bar nut
9 Witticism
10 Wrinkled fruit
11 In — (shortly)
16 Trench
20 Orange veggies
21 Punch
22 Kitten's sound
23 Leslie Caron film
24 Snoops
26 Strategic
27 Guesser's words
28 Caprice
29 Proboscis
31 Wheelchair access
34 "Cats" showstopper
35 Demand
37 Wrigley product
38 Espy
39 Lake of Lombardy
40 Arkin or Alda
41 Lass
44 2016 Olympics city
45 "Unh-unh"
46 Census stat
47 Non-clerical

Solution time: 22 mins.

W	A	G		R	E	A	P	S		B	A	R
E	R	A		O	U	T	R	E		E	L	I
B	I	R	D	B	R	A	I	N		T	O	N
			Y	E	A		S	I	T	E	D	
T	I	B	E	R	S		M	O	L	Y		
C	P	I		T	I	C		R	E	B	U	S
T	A	L	L		A	H	A		D	O	R	A
A	D	L	A	I		A	R	M		O	A	F
		Y	M	C	A			E	M	P	L	E
R	O	B	B	E	R		I	S	O			
I	S	U		B	E	A	C	H	B	A	L	L
P	H	D		A	N	G	L	E		X		
S	A	D		G	A	I	E	S		E	E	L

Yesterday's answer 4-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Elle Fanning, 21; Kristen Stewart, 29; Leighton Meester, 33; Dennis Quaid, 65.

Happy Birthday: Take the path you are most drawn to, and start doing something that makes you happy. Satisfaction should be your goal. Putting together the pieces that will help you complete your objective will encourage you to accomplish what you set out to do. Don't let negative or misleading people discourage you. Identify what you want, and make it happen. Your numbers are 4, 10, 18, 26, 32, 37, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Pick up whatever skills, knowledge or qualifications you need to follow your dream. Preparation will be the key to making your dream come true. Channel emotional energy into letting go of the past and moving forward. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take care of personal business. Don't leave your responsibilities to someone else. How you handle matters will represent who you are and what you are capable of doing. Show everyone how talented and accomplished you are. Personal improvements will pay off. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Someone will take advantage of your good nature and willingness to do things. Step back if anyone tries to persuade you to get involved in something that might be detrimental to your health, your wealth or your love life. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Keep moving forward. Don't let what others do make you angry or cause you to miss out on something you want to do. If you want something, ask. If you don't want to participate in something, say no. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Deal with who and what will bring you the highest returns. Stay focused on what's important to you, and refuse to get caught in someone else's dilemma. Use your energy wisely, and keep your emotions and anger under control. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Try something different. Learn through experience and educational pursuits. A partnership is best handled carefully. If someone wants too much, walk away. Build relationships with people who share your values, financial goals and lifestyle. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Spend more time with like-minded people. If someone gives you a hard time, take a step back. Don't feel responsible for someone who is his or her own worst enemy. Offer suggestions, but don't take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Participate in events, activities or gatherings that interest you. Sharing your ideas with people who are heading down the same path as you will bring you closer to your goal. Love and romance will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Make your position clear to anyone you are dealing with. If you give someone an inch, he or she will take a mile. Protect against users or anyone who is a poor influence or tends to be indulgent. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't forget what's happened in the past. The life experience you have will help you avoid making a mistake or giving in to someone who is pressuring you to be a follower. You'll attract better associates if you do your own thing. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Stick close to home, and work on projects that will benefit you as well as the people you hold dear to your heart. A chance to revisit an old idea or dream will encourage you to learn new skills and gather information. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Keep an open mind, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. Set ground rules before you get involved in projects or events that include people who tend to be indulgent. Fixate on self-improvement, not trying to change others. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are serious, opportunistic and self-starting. You are proactive and adventuresome.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			4	1		8	6	
		3		7				1
	8							9
8					2			
3	1			9			5	4
			7					3
9							7	
1				2		5		
	5	8		4	6			

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	3	8	7	9	5	6	2	4
6	9	4	3	1	2	7	8	5
5	7	2	6	8	4	9	3	1
9	8	7	1	2	3	5	4	6
2	5	6	8	4	9	1	7	3
4	1	3	5	7	6	2	9	8
8	4	5	2	6	7	3	1	9
3	2	1	9	5	8	4	6	7
7	6	9	4	3	1	8	5	2

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

FAMOUS FREDS **Solution: 7 letters**

M	S	S	A	L	G	U	O	D	D	A	V	I	S	K
E	A	R	E	D	N	E	F	B	R	O	W	N	N	R
R	V	C	E	N	E	Y	P	M	U	R	T	O	E	N
C	A	A	M	G	O	A	B	U	P	S	S	K	I	S
U	G	R	S	U	O	J	N	M	R	P	L	C	R	I
R	E	F	E	T	R	R	E	U	I	U	E	I	E	R
Y	W	I	L	L	A	R	D	G	N	U	C	R	Y	R
D	A	A	B	I	L	I	A	D	Z	E	Q	E	R	O
N	I	B	T	A	N	O	R	Y	E	N	O	D	D	N
A	T	O	G	E	N	T	T	E	E	D	C	E	R	E
R	S	A	M	O	R	T	S	S	H	R	L	R	A	S
G	N	T	N	U	H	S	I	T	A	A	A	F	N	I
I	N	H	C	A	O	R	I	N	O	W	R	O	O	M
F	Y	R	R	E	B	M	E	R	G	N	K	R	E	R
T	L	E	W	I	S	G	W	Y	N	N	E	D	L	A

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Armisen, Astaire, Banting, Berry, Boath, Brown, Clarke, Crane, Davis, Dean, Done, Douglass, Dryer, Durst, Eklund, Fender, Flintstone, Ford, Frederick, Gift, Gipson, Grandy, Gwynne, Hunt, Jones, Leonard, Lewis, Lynn, MacMurray, Mercury, Nice, Norris, Prinze, Quimby, Rice, Roach, Rogers, Savage, Smith, Stoller, Stroma, Trump, Waits, Ward, Waters, Willard

Yesterday's Answer: Speck

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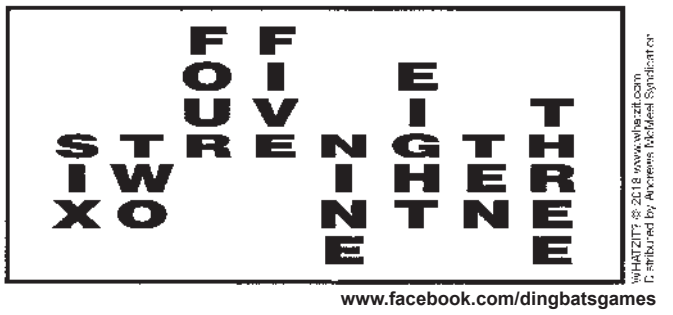

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Find today's solution in classified section

Baylor holds off Notre Dame for third title

TAMPA, Fla.—In the end, the Baylor Lady Bears had to rely on guts and their intense will to win.

With Lauren Cox out of the game with an injury, NaLyssa Smith on the bench after fouling out and Chloe Jackson and DiDi Richards each a foul away from exiting as well, many of the Lady Bears usual options weren't available.

That didn't stop them.

The Lady Bears found a way to make just enough stops against a talented Notre Dame offensive team, and then Jackson finished it.

With the clock ticking under 10 seconds, the graduate transfer point guard waited on a high ball screen from Richards, then went to the basket against Notre Dame's Jackie Young. Jackson finished the drive with a layup that ultimately lifted Baylor to an 82-81 victory over the Fighting Irish on Sunday night at Amalie Arena.

"It's the same play we ran (Friday) against Oregon, last game,'" Jackson said. "(Baylor coach Kim Mulkey) told me just get to the basket. If the wing helps over, then kick it to Juicy. If not just, get all the way to the rim and that's what I did."

Jackson's basket gave the Lady Bears an 82-80 lead with 3.9 seconds remaining. But Notre Dame's Arike Ogunbowale had been in that situation before as she made the game-winning 3-pointer with 1 second left to clinch the Fighting Irish's national championship a year ago.

Notre Dame put the ball in Ogunbowale's hands again and this time she got to the free-throw line after the officials called a foul on Moon Ursin.

But Ogunbowale missed the first of her two shots with 1.9 seconds left. She made the second, but Notre Dame never got its hands on the ball again. After Notre Dame committed a foul to stop the clock, Richards inbounded the ball with .3 seconds left. Her pass was tipped, starting the clock and time expired.

With that, the confetti flew and Baylor celebrated its third national championship. The Lady Bears were right on schedule after winning their first national title in 2005, their second seven years later in 2012 and now their third in 2019.

The Lady Bears, who finished the season with a 37-1 record and on a 29-game winning streak, celebrated with their fans and family on the court for long after the final buzzer sounded. They held multiple trophies and cut down the nets.

AP

Baylor guard DiDi Richards (2) attempts to block a shot by Notre Dame guard Arike Ogunbowale (24) during the first half of the championship game of the NCAA women's college basketball tournament Sunday, April 7, 2019, in Tampa, Fla.

But the first priority, at least for Baylor star center Kalani Brown, was to find Cox, who suffered a knee injury with 1:22 remaining in the third quarter and didn't return.

"I just told her we did this for you," Brown said. "When she went down, I can say we got a little rattled. We had to pull it together and pull it out for her. The whole time, she was coaching on the sideline. She was still involved when she came out of that tunnel and I just think that speaks volumes for her character."

With its full arsenal on both the offensive and defensive ends, Baylor played its game in the first three quarters and Notre Dame (35-4) struggled to keep up.

The Lady Bears filled up the basket in the first half as they built a 17-point lead.

Jackson pulled up for and nailed a jumper to cap an 8-0 run and gave the Lady Bears their largest lead of the first half at 33-16 with 6:38 left before the break.

Baylor held Notre Dame to 28-percent shooting in the first half. The Lady Bears gave up just eight points in the paint as they blocked six shots in that period.

The inside-outside combo of Jackson and Brown led the way on the offensive end as the Baylor point guard scored 14 and the center added 12.

The only thing driving Mulkey crazy in the first 20 minutes was Notre Dame's knack for grabbing offensive rebounds. The Fighting Irish secured 13 offensive boards and scored nine second-chance points in the first half.

Even so, Baylor won the second-chance-points category through the break. Brown put back a Jackson miss with three seconds left in the second quarter, allowing the Lady Bears to take a 43-31 edge to halftime.

Baylor kept it going in the third quarter and grabbed a 14-point lead when guard Juicy Landrum hit her second 3-pointer of the contest with 2:21 remaining in the period.

A minute later, though, Cox suffered the injury that changed the rest of the contest.

"The worst part of the game was (Lauren Cox's injury)," Mulkey said. "We controlled that game from the start until the time she went off the floor and we had to regroup. For us to win, probably was a miracle in itself when you lose a player of that caliber. Not only the talent she has, but she's our leader, people."

Notre Dame charged with a 19-8 run through the first five minutes of the fourth quarter. Fighting Irish guard Marina Mabrey nailed a 3-pointer to tie it with 5:18 left and it was time for Baylor's gut check.

"We're always prepared for little things," Richards said. "Everything was foreshadowing this event. This was going to happen eventually. It's showed that this team is strong. It showed that we've got each other's back no matter what, for sure."

Texas Tech vs Virginia first-timers faceoff

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—For Virginia and Texas Tech, doing something that had never been done before took hard work, dedication, determination—and vision.

The Cavaliers and Red Raiders meet in the NCAA Tournament championship game Monday night. Neither program has ever been this close to a title, making it a rare matchup of first-timers to the final game of the college basketball season. The last time both teams in the championship game had never been there before was 40 years ago, when Magic Johnson and Michigan State beat Larry Bird and Indiana State.

Between the Red Raiders (31-6) and Cavaliers (34-3), a first-time champ is guaranteed. The last one of those was crowned in 2006, when Florida won the first of back-to-back titles.

College basketball's hierarchy, blue bloods in an array of shades from Duke to Kentucky, North Carolina to Kansas, is difficult to crack. Getting here started with Virginia coach Tony Bennett and Texas Tech's Chris Beard believing it could be done.

"Then you've got to get people on board that really believe it and believe it in front of you, behind your back, believe it at 10 o'clock when they're out of town, on the road somewhere. Believe it in the morning, believe it when they're talking to their wife, their kid," Beard said Sunday at U.S. Bank Stadium. "They've got to really believe it."

In less than a decade, Beard has gone from coaching in the semi-pro ABA to Division III, then II, and then a couple of seasons at Arkansas Little Rock before landing in Lubbock. The Red Raiders basketball history is solid but unspectacular. Texas Tech was where Bobby Knight landed after the volatile Hall of Fame coach wore out his welcome in Indiana. He took Texas Tech to the NCAA Tournament four times in the 2000s. Pretty good, but Beard expected much more.

"Our goal has never been to make a tournament. It's been to win the tournament," Beard said. "It's easy to talk about, and really, really hard to do. But that's where we started this whole thing, was just trying to have the expectations and the vision where we could be relative."

Texas Tech reached the Elite Eight for the first time last season. This season, with a mostly rebuilt team around star Jarrett Culver, the Red Raiders shared the Big 12 regular-season title for the first time and are now on the cusp of an unlikely championship.

Bennett's belief he could challenge the Atlantic Coast Conference's Tobacco Road powers came from his father, Dick Bennett. The Badgers hadn't been to a Final Four in more than 50 years, when Dick Bennett coached them there in 2000 using a methodical style.

"Can you go and take a team and build your program in a way that you think is best and compete against the best?" said Bennett, in his 10th season at Virginia. "There's a way that I know works—or that I believe works. So when you get in those spots, you hope, you have a vision and you hope, but you never truly know. When you come in and say, 'This is going to happen. We're going to be a Final Four team, or we're going to win the ACC.' You believe it, and you hope it, and then you just go to work."

Tony Bennett took his father's blueprint and turned Virginia into a perennial ACC contender, going toe-to-toe with Duke and North Carolina, but not until this season were the Cavaliers able to break through—doing so on the strength of two improbable last-second plays. And just a year after suffering the most stunning upset in NCAA Tournament history, losing as the top overall seed to No. 16 seed UMBC.

Five ejected in brawl between Reds and Pirates

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Yasiel Puig looked eager to take a big swing. And not with a bat, either.

An enraged Puig barreled into a bunch of Pirates during a bench-clearing fracas Sunday, and was among five ejections in Pittsburgh's 7-5 victory over the Cincinnati Reds.

The trouble started in the fourth inning when Pirates starter Chris Archer threw his first pitch behind the waist of Derek Dietrich. His previous time up, Dietrich dropped the bat and stood to admire his 436-foot home run clear the fence atop the Clemente Wall and bounce into the Allegheny River.

Dietrich froze in the batter's box when Archer's 93 mph fastball whizzed by. Plate umpire Jeff Kellogg warned both benches and new Reds manager David Bell jogged from the dugout to the infield, arguing Archer should've been ejected.

"I was trying to go in," Archer said. "I air-mailed a couple balls today, a couple that I was trying to elevate, a couple that I yanked when righties were up there. Another one that I just yanked."

"I missed—missed my spot," he said.

The Reds weren't buying it.

And when Archer was allowed to stay in the game, tempers quickly escalated.

The excitable Puig, in his first season with the Reds, grabbed Pirates bench coach Tom Prince and tried to put the 54-year-old former catcher in a headlock. Puig kept trying to plow ahead, and eventually was held back by teammate Joey Votto.

"When people watch the ball go far away or do bat flips, like I do before, in the next (at-bat) try to strike out the guy," Puig said. "Don't try to hit the guy, because we can't defend you back because we can't hit you with a bat or nothing."

Puig, Bell and Reds pitcher Amir Garrett were ejected, as were Pirates pitchers Keone Kela and Felipe Vazquez.

Archer (1-0) went six innings, allowing three runs and five hits while striking out seven.

"It's just completely unacceptable for anyone to try to intentionally hurt one of our players," Bell said. "It's that simple. And it was obvious."

Vazquez said he was ejected for entering the field without his uniform top.

AP

Cincinnati Reds' Yasiel Puig (66) is restrained by Pittsburgh Pirates bench coach Tom Prince in the middle of a bench clearing brawl during the fourth inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh, Sunday, April 7, 2019.

Red Sox 1, Diamondbacks 0

In Phoenix, Mitch Moreland homered off Merrill Kelly on the first pitch of the seventh inning, and the World Series champion Boston Red Sox ended an awful opening trip with a win over the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Boston went 3-8 against Seattle, Oakland and Arizona, its worst start since losing nine of 11 in 2011. The Red Sox host Toronto on Tuesday, their first game at Fenway Park since winning the World Series at Dodger Stadium last October.

Hector Velazquez, Brandon Workman, Marcus Walden (1-0), Matt Barnes and Ryan Brasier combined on a three-hitter. Walden got six outs for his first major league victory and Brasier retired Adam Jones on a game-ending groundout with a runner on second.

Yankees 15, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Gary Sanchez hit three of the Yankees' seven home runs, their most on the road since 1961, and New York completed a three-game sweep to move back above .500 at 5-4.

Clint Frazier homered twice and had four hits, and Austin Romine and Gleyber Torres also went deep. New York's first 18 runs of the series scored on homers, and the Yankees hit 14 over the three games.

Domingo German (2-0) gave up two runs, one hit and two walks in six-plus innings, and David Hess (1-1) allowed four runs and five hits in five innings.

Angels 7, Rangers 2

In Anaheim, Mike Trout homered for the fourth straight game and Los Angeles won after waiting out a five-minute delay caused by a swarm of bees in the fifth.

Trout hit five home runs in the four-game series, going 6 for 11 with nine RBIs. He hit a two-run drive off Kyle Bird in the sixth inning for a 6-2 lead.

Justin Anderson (2-0) threw a scoreless inning in relief. Shelby Miller (0-1) gave up four runs, four hits and three walks in two innings.

Dodgers 12, Rockies 6

In Denver, Cody Bellinger homered again, Max Muncy also went deep and Los Angeles outslugged Colorado.

Bellinger had three hits, including his major league-leading seventh home run, and has hit safely in 11 straight games dating to last year. The Dodgers have 24 homers and have connected in all 10 games. They scored 29 runs and swept a series at Coors Field for the second consecutive season.

Joe Kelly (1-1) pitched 1 2/3 innings in relief to get the win as "Sunday Night Baseball" on ESPN made its first appearance at Coors Field since 2001 with a game that lasted 3 hours, 52 minutes.

Rays 3, Giants 0

In San Francisco, Tampa Bay manager Kevin Cash moved left-handed reliever Adam Kolarek to first base in a piece of matchup strategy, and the Rays opened with three straight series wins for the first time.

Kolarek pitched a perfect sixth inning to protect a 2-0 lead and moved to first base with a man on in the seventh when righty Chaz Roe reliever to strike out lefty-swinging Brandon Belt. Kolarek returned to the mound, gave up a single and was replaced for good by Diego Castillo.

Yandy Diaz homered on the second pitch of the game from Drew Pomeranz (0-1), and Yonny Chirinos (2-0) allowed two hits in five innings.

Brewers 4, Cubs 2

In Milwaukee, Christian Yelich hit his fifth homer this season and 100th of his career, a drive off Kyle Hendricks (0-2), Yelich had three RBIs, and Josh Hader struck out three over 2 2/3 perfect innings for his fifth save as Milwaukee won for the seventh time in eight games.

Chicago lost for the seventh time in eight games, dropping to 2-7.

Zach Davies (1-0) allowed a pair of unearned runs in 5 2/3 innings. The Brewers have won 15 of their last 16 regular season series dating to last year.

Phillies 2, Twins 1

In Philadelphia, Rhys Hoskins hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning off Jose Berrios (1-1), and Philadelphia improved to 6-2.

Zach Eflin (2-0) allowed a leadoff homer to Max Kepler and five singles, striking out five, and Hector Neris tossed a perfect ninth for his first save since last Sept. 18.

Phillies left fielder Andrew McCutchen made a perfect one-hop throw to the plate to prevent Marwin Gonzalez from scoring on Ehire Adrianza's single in the third.

Indians 3, Blue Jays 1

In Cleveland, Mike Clevinger (1-0) struck out 10 and allowed one hit over five scoreless innings, then left with upper back tightness, as Cleveland completed a four-game sweep.

Indians pitchers struck out 16, raising their three-game total to 57. Brad Hand got five outs for his fourth save, completing a three-hitter.

Toronto dropped to 3-8 and has struck out a major league-leading 111 times.

Carlos Santana had an RBI double in a two-run first that included Tyler Naquin's run-scoring single. Jose Ramirez added an RBI double in the fifth.

Tigers 3, Royals 1

In Detroit, Tyson Ross (1-1) allowed one run and five hits over seven innings in his debut at Comerica Park debut, the last current ballpark he hadn't pitched in, and Detroit won its fifth straight.

Rookie Christin Stewart drove in two runs off Brad Keller (1-1) to help the Tigers complete a three-game sweep. Shane Greene got three outs and has saves in all seven Tigers victories. Center fielder Niko Goodrum ended the game with a diving catch of Hunter Dozier's liner with a man on.

Kansas City has lost six straight. Whit Merrifield extended his hitting streak to 28 games dating to last season.

Nationals 12, Mets 9

In New York, Max Scherzer (1-2) allowed four runs and eight hits in 6 1/3 innings with seven strikeouts, no walks and two hit batters, and he also singled in the game's first run.

Anthony Rendon homered for the fourth time in five games, a three-run drive as Washington opened a 12-1 lead, and the Nationals were helped by 12 walks.

Zack Wheeler (0-1) gave up seven runs, four hits and a career-high seven walks in 4 2/3 innings.

Braves 4, Marlins 3

In Atlanta, Dansby Swanson hit a game-ending single off Adam Conley (0-2) against a five-man infield after Ronald Acuna Jr. reached on a catcher's catcher's interference call on Chad Wallach after his apparent double-play grounder.

Pinch-hitter Curtis Granderson hit a tying homer in the ninth off Arodys Vizcaino (1-0).

Freddie Freeman hit a two-run homer off Caleb Smith in the first inning.

Astros 9, Athletics 8

In Houston, Jose Altuve drew a four-pitch walk from Blake Treinen (0-1) with the bases loaded and two outs in the ninth, giving Houston a three-game sweep.

Roberto Osuna (1-0) struck out one in a perfect ninth.

Cardinals 4, Padres 1

In St. Louis, Adam Wainwright (1-0) gave up one run and five hits in six innings, struck out nine and didn't issue a walk while throwing 100 pitches.

Jordan Hicks got four outs for his first save.

Paul DeJong hit a two-run double in the fourth off Matt Strahm (0-2).

Magic, Nets in; Heat playoff hopes take a hit

TORONTO (AP) — Another frustrating finish left the Miami Heat's playoff hopes hanging by a thread.

An untimely whistle by an official led to a disjointed final sequence in regulation, and the Heat wound up losing 117-109 in overtime to the Toronto Raptors on Sunday.

Miami had the ball in the frontcourt with the score tied 103-103 and 10 seconds left in the fourth quarter. Official Eric Lewis blew the whistle and the Heat players started running into position, but Dion Waiters hadn't yet been given the ball for the inbounds pass.

Confused, the Heat ended up with a broken play at the buzzer. James Johnson missed a jump shot and Bam Adebayo grabbed the rebound and made a layup, but it came right after the buzzer and didn't count.

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said the explanation he received from the officials for the early whistle included "nothing that was coherent or makes sense."

"You blow the whistle when you hand the ball to somebody when they're out of bounds, not before," Spoelstra said. "That got us moving, into motion, before that. Then it was just sideways from there.

"It's very disappointing that that play was allowed to continue," he said. "From our vantage point, that was a botched play. You just set it again. That happens a million times during the course of an NBA season."

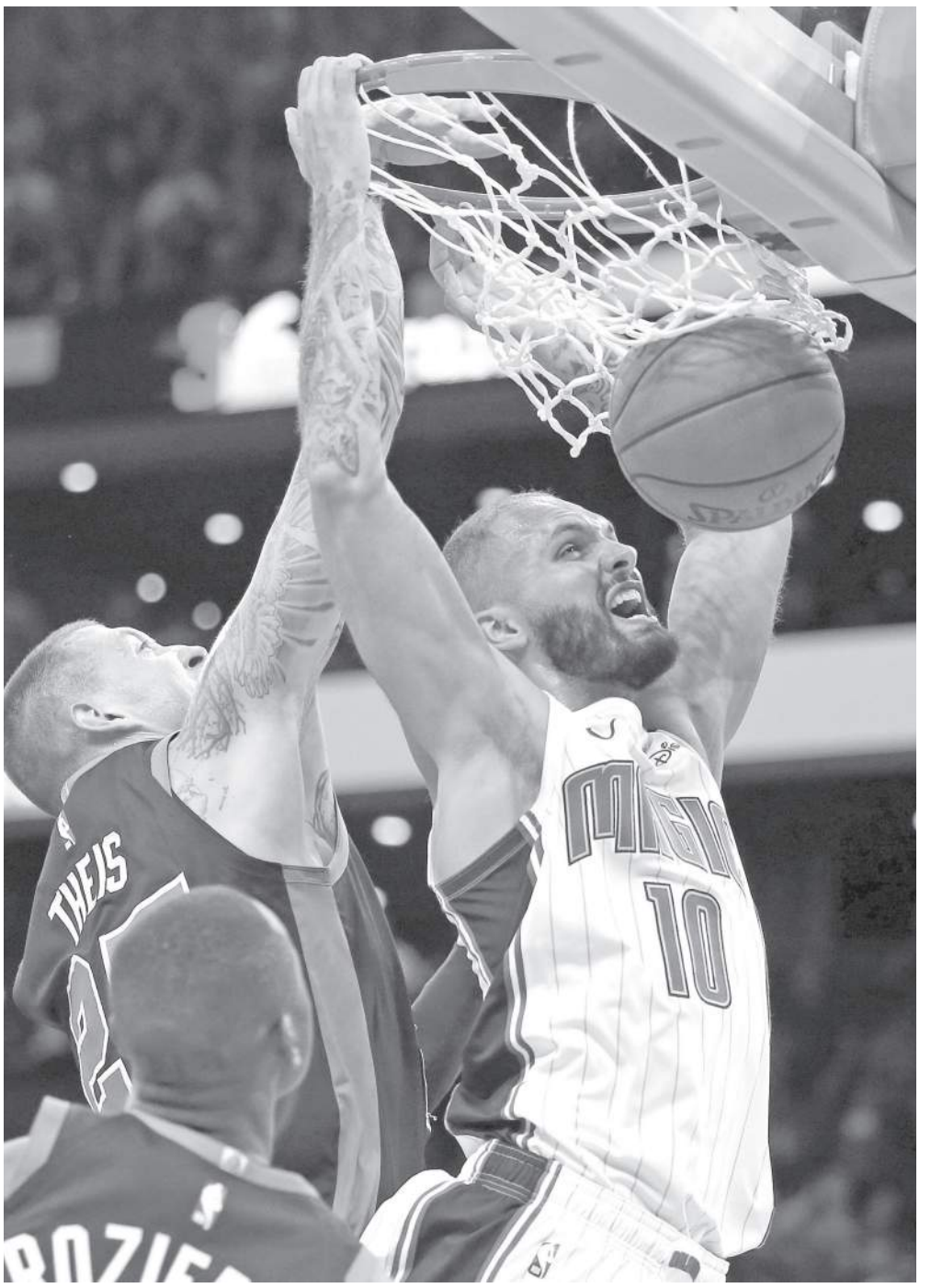
Wade, who was supposed to receive the inbounds pass, ended up not touching the ball on Miami's final possession in the fourth quarter.

"All I know is by the time turned to get it back court, Dion still had the ball," Wade said. "It definitely took us out of what we wanted to do."

The Heat could have guaranteed a postseason berth by winning their final three games—they host Philadelphia on Tuesday and close the regular season at Brooklyn the following day.

"We'll need some help," Spoelstra said. "The only thing we control is what we do. We've got to dust this one off, get back to Miami and win the next game."

Miami was in position to be eliminated later Sunday if Orlando defeated Boston, Brooklyn beat Indiana, and Detroit beat Charlotte.



AP

Orlando Magic's Evan Fournier (10) dunks against Boston Celtics' Daniel Theis (27) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Sunday, April 7, 2019.

Magic 116, Celtics 108

In Boston, Terrence Ross had 26 points, Nikola Vucevic added 25 points and 12 rebounds and Orlando clinched its first playoff berth in seven years.

Evan Fournier added 24 points for Orlando, which last made the postseason during the 2011-12 season. The Magic also got their first regular-season sweep over Boston since 1996-97.

Even with the loss, the Celtics clinched at least the fourth seed and home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs when Brooklyn beat Indiana.

Nets 108, Pacers 96

In Indiana, D'Angelo Russell scored 20 points and Joe Harris added 19, leading Brooklyn back into the NBA playoffs for the first time in four years.

The Nets moved into position to clinch when Miami lost in overtime at Toronto earlier in the day. It's also the first time since 2014-15 the Nets have not posted a losing record.

Hornets 104, Pistons 91

In Detroit, Kemba Walker scored 20 of his 31 points in the first half to help the Hornets build a big lead and win its third consecutive game. Charlotte (38-42) is still clinging to its chances of rallying for a playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

The Pistons (39-41) have lost four in a row to possibly plummet from being a sixth-seeded team to missing the postseason for a third consecutive year and the ninth time in a decade.

Rockets 149, Suns 113

In Houston, James Harden scored 30 points in just three quarters as the Rockers broke their NBA record by making 27 3-pointers in a win over Phoenix.

Eric Gordon led the 3-point brigade by tying a career high with eight, Harden added five, P.J. Tucker had four and Danuel House three.

Gary Clark tied the record with a little over three minutes to play and Houston missed the next four before Austin Rivers broke it with 1:09 remaining.

Spurs 112, Cavaliers 90

In Cleveland, LaMarcus Aldridge had 18 points and 13 rebounds as the San Antonio Spurs, who are in a three-team scramble to determine playoff seeding in the Western Conference, extended Cleveland's losing streak to nine games.

The Spurs came into the day in eighth place, which would mean an early matchup with defending champion Golden State. However, the Spurs can still move ahead of Oklahoma City and the Los Angeles Clippers as they own tiebreakers with both teams.

Thunder 132, Timberwolves 126

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook had 27 points, 10 rebounds and 15 assists to help the Thunder remain a half-game ahead of San Antonio for seventh place in the Western Conference.

Paul George also scored 27 points and Dennis Schroder had 14 of his 21 in the fourth quarter for the Thunder.

Lakers 113, Jazz 109

In Los Angeles, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and the Lakers have been out of playoff contention for the past month. They're still playing a role in shaping the Western Conference bracket.

Caldwell-Pope scored 32 points, as the short-handed Lakers snapped Utah's seven-game winning streak.

Warriors 131, Clippers 104

In Oakland, Steve Kerr sure would like to properly thank the loyal fans at Oracle Arena one more time. In June. With another championship in hand.

"Hopefully we'll have another send-off in a grander manner," Kerr said.

Soaking in the franchise's nostalgia of yesteryear, Stephen Curry scored 27 points and helped the Golden State Warriors clinch the Western Conference's top seed with a win in their final regular-season game at Oracle Arena, beating the Los Angeles Clippers for a fifth straight victory.

Bucks 115, Hawks 107

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo is in a perfect position to put the Bucks' 60-win season in perspective.

Antetokounmpo scored 30 points and Khris Middleton added 21 to send Milwaukee to a methodical victory over the Atlanta Hawks, giving the Bucks 60 wins for the first time since 1981.

"Six years ago, my first year here, we won 15 game," said Antetokounmpo, who was a 19-year-old rookie in 2013-14. "Now, we have four times that amount. It's big."

USWNT's time for tinkering, testing nearly over

LOS ANGELES—The confidence-boosting phase of the World Cup cycle is underway for the United States women's national team.

The Americans steamrolled a far inferior Belgian team 6-0 on Sunday night, despite coach Jill Ellis putting out an experimental lineup that featured many players that will likely be back-ups this summer in France.

Carli Lloyd, the World Cup hero from four years ago who has seen her minutes dwindle drastically in the past two years, led the way with a brace in one of the USWNT's final friendlies before this summer's tournament.

In her first start since November, Lloyd opened scoring 14th minute, rising up to head a ball from Tierna Davidson and towering over defender Heleen Jaques.

She scored a similar goal five minutes later, getting on the end of a cross from Crystal Dunn and nodding it home.

Lindsey Horan joined in the barrage of headers in the 26th minute off a cross from Christen Press to triple the score. Then Samantha Mewis, the tallest field player the USWNT has ever had at 5 feet, 11 inches, added a header of her own seven minutes later.

With a slew of lineup changes at halftime, Alex Morgan came on and quickly made an impact, running onto a ball from Lloyd and rifling past goalkeeper Nicky Evra.

Striker Jessica McDonald added the sixth goal in stoppage time.

Belgium, ranked 20th in the world, did not qualify for this summer's World Cup. The USWNT has just three more tune-up matches before the tournament, all against opponents ranked No. 19 or worse, so the remaining games figure to build confidence more than legitimately test the squad.

The tinkering continued, but this should be the last of it

Ellis has said in the past that she was shifting her focus to a core group, but that hasn't quite happened yet. Part of it is injuries to key players, like Kelley O'Hara, but part of it is also Ellis' stated mission to explore every option before the World Cup.

On Sunday, Ellis fielded a lineup of presumed backups and bubble players. Attackers like Lloyd, Press and Mallory Pugh, who have filled backup roles for the most part, all started. Meanwhile, McDonald and midfielder McCall Zerboni, who are far from locks to even make the World Cup roster, also saw minutes.

"In terms of some of the rotations we did, it was just looking at different pairings and making sure we get as many looks as we can," Ellis said afterward. "Part of it was also giving other players opportunities with fresh legs to come into this game. We wanted to give other players opportunities to play and look at different options."

Ellis has said that when May arrives, the ongoing experimentation should stop. She has said this before, of course, but this time she probably means it—by the time the USWNT's next friendlies arrive, the World Cup will only be a month away.

Team CNMI vies for world champs slot

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Team CNMI will be competing in the Trench Challenge in Guam in September this year to earn a ticket to the Obstacle Course Race World Championships.

The squad is made up of James Lee, Rodney Camacho, Ando Agulto, R.J. Aquino, and Joe Villacrusis and their preparations for the OCRWC qualifier set for Sept. 30 at the Guam International Raceway have started early this year.

"James (Lee) has been a regular at Trench Challenge, while some of us did it a few years ago, but only the recreational part of the race. This year, James and I put a team together to compete in the Trench Challenge event in the Elite Division. What this means is that if we rank in this event, we will qualify to compete in the OCWRC, which will be held in October in London," Villacruis said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the Team CNMI that will compete in the Trench Challenge in Guam this year pose for a photo at Latte Built before starting their training session.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Trench Challenge regular James Lee will suit up for Team CNMI in the Obstacle Course Race World Championships qualifier in Guam.

"We have been training since the beginning of this year everyday, and most of the time, twice a day. Most of our training is conducted at Latte Built Gym starting at 5am," he said.

Villacrusis added that part of their training is competing in local running events, including last month's Saipan Marathon.

"Right now, we are working on the terrains on sand and up hills of Mt. Tapochau and the Navy Hill road from the Hyatt up to the baseball field," the former CNMI National Basketball Team member.

While training, the group is also busy holding fundraisers. Last month, they did a fundraiser that was supported by the following companies: Tony Roma's, Capricciosa, Great Harvest, Bubba Gump, Caravan, Cha Saipan, Sea Touch, Let's Go Tours, SUP Saipan, Tribe Marianas, MARPAC, Jonny's Bar & Grill, Monkey Biz Productions, and Salty Skin Pacific.

"We will have a couple more fundraisers to help with the cost to compete in both Trench Challenge and the OCRWC. We will be glad to represent the CNMI in the OCR. We believe this will help put CNMI on the map along with all the top athletes in the world. The CNMI has never had a representation in this event and we would like to be the first one to do it. We will need all the support we can get from businesses, government officials/offices, and the community," Villacrusis said.

The organizers of OCRWC are excited to have Lee and his team join the event in October.

"The Trench Challenge is excited to have James Lee, our two-time (2017 & 2018) OCRWC qualifier return to Guam in September with Team CNMI to try and qualify for the 2019 Obstacle Course Race World Championships, which will be held in Kelvedon Hatch London, UK this October. The CNMI's representation at OCRWC will make it 68. We look forward to him and his team earning their spots at the World Championships," Trench Challenge race director Tom Akigami said.

To help the team or for more information, contact Villacrusis at 483-5638.

PLUNKETT

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to 20 will run smoothly.

"I would like to meet with the CNMI delegates as often as possible leading up to the Games, so we could organize things and make sure that we get everything ready and in order when we get to Samoa," said Plunkett.

The Commonwealth will be sending athletes in triathlon, athletics, golf, swimming, tennis, canoe, rugby and possibly beach volleyball.

TRAC will bring three athletes to Samoa this summer, while Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation will have six and a coach. Northern Marianas Athletics is sticking to its four-athlete team (two male and two female) plus a coach, while Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association has initially committed both men's and women's teams (four members for each squad). Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation has also expressed its intension to bring men's and women's canoe teams to Samoa, while rugby (sevens) and golf (men's team) are still a go.

Beach volleyball qualifiers

Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Federation is the latest local sports group to inform NMSA of its plan to compete in the quadrennial competition.

NMIVA will only join the men's beach volleyball and will be holding a two-leg qualifier to select its representatives to the Pacific Games. The first qualifier is set for April 28 and with teams playing in pool play and then double-elimination playoffs at the Hyatt Regency Saipan court. The second qualifier will follow the same format and is scheduled for May 12, also at the Hyatt court.

Off-island players interested in representing the CNMI in Samoa, but could not join the qualifiers are asked to submit videos of their matches for consideration.

Players who will be selected will have to raise funds on their own to make the trip to Samoa, as NMIVA is not expecting to receive financial aid besides the limited assistance CNMI delegates will get from NMSA. The cost (including airfare and accommodation) to participate in the Pacific Games is estimated at $3,000 per delegate.

AGAPE

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handed the Torchbearers a 28-10 halftime advantage. McDonald continued to shoulder Saipan Community's offense, as he connected on three layups for all of their squad's 6 markers, going into the break.

When the game resumed, SCS hit rock bottom, as Miles Borja's putback was the Tsunamis' lone basket in the third period.

In contrast, Tang converted an and-1 play and swished two more free throws for 5 points for Agape, while Eric Chen added 4 points, padding their lead to 42-12, with just a quarter to go.

Saipan Community never made headway in the final canto, allowing Agape to notch a 42-point winning margin.

Tang led the way for the Torchbearers with his 18 points, while Zheng and Qiu contributed with 11 and 8 markers, respectively. McDonald had 14 for Saipan Community.

In other results, Mount Carmel School overcame a scoreless first quarter to nip Grace Christian Academy in the girls division game at the Koblerville Gymnasium, 20-19.

The Lady Eagles were in the driver's seat for most of the game and even held a 17-14 lead heading into the fourth quarter. However, the Lady Knights fought their way back into the game and stole the win after scoring 6 points in the final period and limiting GCA to one field goal.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
An Agape Christian School player throws up a floater during their game againt Saipan Community School in the CCOPSA middle school caging yesterday at the Agape court in Gualo Rai.

Kaithlyn Chavez and Brandie Matsumoto teamed up to complete Mt. Carmel's comeback, as the former scored 4 points and the latter tallied 2. The Lady Eagles' Soleil Lamar led all scorers with her 12 points, while Azriel Fatialofa logged 4.

After the tough loss, GCA dropped to 0-2 card, while the Lady Knights evened out their record to 1-1, bouncing back from their debut loss to Seventh Day Adventist last Thursday (4-17).

Mt. Carmel ended up sweeping the double-header yesterday, as its boys team bested GCA, 35-21.

The Knights secured their second win in as many matches, while GCA fell to a 1-2 card. MCS got its first victory last Thursday when it dominated SDA, 46-8.

Over in As Lito, Saipan International School crushed SDA, 61-13.

Danny Lee led the Geckos' triumph with his 15 points, while Daniel Nam, Dylan Mister, and William Xue contributed 12, 11, and 10 markers, respectively.

SIS now has a 2-1 record, while SDA is still searching for its first win of the season after absorbing its third defeat in as many games.

Meanwhile, GCA and SDA will be locking horns at the former's court in Navy Hill for the boys and girls division games tomorrow. Over in Susupe, SCS will host SIS, while MCS and NMIS will face off at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Agape 58—Tang 18, Zheng 11, Qiu 8, Cai 5, Bao 4, Chen 4, Liang 4, He 2, Jin 2
SCS 16—McDonald 14, Borja 2.
Scoring by quarters: 18-4, 28-10, 42-12, 58-16.

MPU

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in the division, Oliver Lee towed MP United to victory after firing four goals. He delivered a hat trick in the first half after finding the back of the net in the 12th, 20th, and 34th minute, while his last goal came in the 65th. Kaden Church added a pair, while Jon Villagomez, and Gaeul Kim contributed one apiece.

Ian Karl Maniago scored the lone goal for Kanoa Football Club, which has only one win this season.

BOYS U15
Kanoa-1 8, Matansa 0

Kanoa extended its winning streak to six after blanking Matansa in the second game in the division last Saturday.

Jaydee Jose starred in Kanoa-1's crushing of Matansa after making three goals. He then drew enough support from his teammates with Jim Maniago and Merrick Maniago adding two goals apiece and Daniel Mar Pablo recording one.

With its perfect record, Kanoa sits on top of the standings in the six-team field.

TanHoldings 13, Kanoa-2 0

TanHoldings also posted a shutout win over Kanoa-2 in the first game last weekend.

Kohtaro Goto jumpstarted TanHoldings' well-oiled offense after notching four straight goals in the first half (second, 13th, 17th, and 22nd minute). He added two more in the second half and the rest of his teammates took over in finishing off the hapless Kanoa-2.

Oliver Fajardo chipped in three goals, while Ariel Narvaez, Mark Joseph Roque, Tyler Macaranas, and Anthony Bergancia logged one apiece for TanHoldings, which is in third place in the team rankings.

MP United 3, Shirley's 1

MP United is still ranked second, breathing down Kanoa's neck following a victory over Shirley's.

Dylan Mister delivered two goals for MP United, getting his first in the sixth minute and the last in the 43rd. Shirley's, which has only two wins this season, briefly knotted the count, as Gabriel Arkoh scored three minutes after Mister earned his first goal. However, Shirley's eventually lost when it failed to counter against MP United in the second half. MP United's other goal in the second half was courtesy of Richard Steele in the 52nd minute.

Five ejected in brawl between Reds and Pirates

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Sports

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Agape still perfect

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Agape Christian School maintained its undefeated record after routing Saipan Community School, 58-16, in the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Middle School Basketball League yesterday at the former's court in Gualo Rai.

The Torchbearers went on a 18-0 scoring run against the Tsunamis in the first quarter and never looked back en route to their third win in as many games. Saipan Community absorbed its second loss and has only one victory early in the season.

Eason Tang anchored Agape's surge as he knocked in three mid-range jumpers and also hit a fastbreak basket, while fellow starters Bobby Bao, Caleb Cai, David Zheng, and Tony Liang chimed in during Agape's game-deciding run.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Agape Christian School's Eason Tang, left, drives against Saipan Community School's Miles Borja during their game in the CCOPSA middle school caging yesterday at the Agape court in Gualo Rai.

The Tsunamis were without a basket in the first eight minutes of the match before Charlie McDonald slashed into the lane and made back-to-back layups to end his team's long dry spell.

After Agape built a hefty lead, its starters took a breather and passed the torch to Steven Qiu, who made the most out of his minutes, as he scored 8 of their 10 second-quarter points and

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Triathlon Association of the CNMI's Paul Plunkett is the Commonwealth's chef de mission to the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa.

Plunkett named chef de mission

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Triathlon Association of the CNMI official Paul Plunkett was selected as Team CNMI's chef de mission for the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa.

Plunkett, whose appointment was announced during the Northern Marianas Sports Association's monthly meeting last month, will work with NMSA and the Pacific Games organizers in Samoa in ensuring that CNMI athletes and officials' participation in the competition from July 7

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MPU ahead; TanHoldings snaps skid

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club is still on top, while TanHoldings FC is back on track following their easy victories in the boys U18 division of the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Friday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

In the curtain-raiser, MP United whipped Kanoa Football Club, 8-1, while TanHoldings also cruised past the CNMI Boys U15 National Team in the second match, 6-0. The win was MP United's fifth in as many games, keeping the squad in the lead in the five-team field, while TanHoldings got victory No. 3 and snapped its two-game losing skid.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
TanHoldings Football Club's Kohtaro Goto takes a shot in front of the Kanoa Football Club-2 goalie during their first round meeting in the boys U15 division of the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Before downing the CNMI U15, TanHoldings first bowed to MP United and Matansa late last month. Mark Esalan and John Canape helped TanHoldings regain its winning form after scoring two goals apiece, while Jonathan Capayas added one. The winning squad got an own goal in the opening minutes of the first half to take the lead, while Canape and Esalan made it a 3-0 halftime edge after hitting the board in the 17th and 20th minute, respectively. Capayas then kicked off TanHoldings' offense with his conversion in the 49th minute, while Esalan and Canape followed suit in the 58th and 66th, respectively, to complete their domination of the winless CNMI U15.

In the other lopsided game

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